



# ***Daily Report***

## **East Asia**

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# Daily Report

## East Asia

FBIS-EAS-96-033

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## Japan

**Japan: DA Chief Usui Decides To Visit U.S. in Mar**  
*OW1602123396 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN*  
*in Japanese 16 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 2*

[FBIS Translated Text] On 15 February, Defense Agency [DA] Director General Hideo Usui decided to visit the United States in late March to meet U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry. He is finalizing the tour schedule to hold the Japan-U.S. defense summit on around 21-22 March.

**Japan: Redefinition of Joint Security Treaty Viewed**  
*OW1502142396 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN*  
*in Japanese 31 Jan 96 Morning Edition p 4*

[Article by Yoichi Funabashi, chief of ASAHI SHIMBUN's U.S. General Bureau: "The Japan-U.S. Security Treaty Proceeds With 'Redefinition' — Various Opinions in the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Both the Japanese and U.S. Governments are planning to jointly declare the "re-defining" of the Security Treaty system for the postwar period during the forthcoming visit by President Clinton to Japan in April. At present, a draft of the declaration, together with new commitments regarding military base issues in Okinawa, is being finalized by the foreign affairs and defense secretariat bureaus. However, while preparation for "redefinition" is being pursued behind the scenes by a very small segment of bureaucrats, severe criticism against "redefinition" is coming out in the United States, insisting that the "historic role of the Security Treaty has ended." Various opinions are also heard from among those who support the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. Even from within the U.S. Government, various voices are heard.

On the Internet, there is a club called "The Dead Fukuzawa Group," which consists of people who study Japan in the United States. The group is named after Yukichi Fukuzawa. On the Internet, there has been debate for the past several months on the Nye Initiative (the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty "redefinition" policy promotion under the leadership of Joseph Nye, former assistant secretary of defense). Many of the opinions are negative, saying "That is really Nye (Nye means "nothing" in Japanese)." Their theoretical leader is Chalmers Johnson, director of the Institute of Japanese Policy. After the rape incident against a girl in Okinawa, Johnson called for abolition of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty through sharp criticism saying, "The United States is trying to do something akin to maintaining extraterritorial rights under imperialism. It is impossible for the United States to continue to treat Japan, the

second largest economic superpower in the world, as a permanent lease territory."

### Minority of Opinion Leaders Insist on Abolition of the Security Treaty

Johnson holds the view that after the Cold War, the major battlefield is economic and not military in nature, and as such, the United States should not allow Japan to have a "free ride" in the economy or the Security Treaty. Michael Lind (senior editor of the New Republic) also insists on abolition of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, although viewing the issue from a different angle. He regards the dispatch of U.S. troops to Bosnia as a step to create "a third empire" to control Europe and the Middle East, and to concentrate this operation, he suggests that the U.S. Government should minimize its military presence in the Asia-Pacific region. This is, in other words, an evacuation from the Pacific to strengthen power in the Atlantic.

However, at this point these opinions are not the mainstream. Although the U.S. Congress was once critical of Japan's "free ride," few people are calling for abolition of the Security Treaty. According to an executive staff member of the U.S. Department of Defense, "There was only one inquiry from Congress to the Japan Desk in the U.S. Department of Defense. This is mostly due to the diminishing interest toward Japan."

The United States Government's basic concept of "redefinition" is stated in the "EAST" (East Asia Strategic Report), which was announced by the U.S. Department of Defense. Under the supposition that "unstable" and "unpredictable" incidents will take place, they describe the military presence of the United States by using the word "oxygen." The U.S. military presence and the U.S.-Japan alliance is the foundation of stability in the Pacific. In this context, Japan provides the United States with military bases, and the United States provides Japan with defense power. The U.S. Government said it will have about 100,000 (including 47,000 in Japan) troops stationed in the Pacific for the coming 20 years. However, there remain ambiguities in several points.

First, against which country does the U.S. seek to establish alliance? It is not clear. During the beginning of the Cold War, the targets were China and the Soviet Union, and as time went by, the target was mainly the Soviet Union.

In the United States, the rise of China and its military ambition have been regarded as a harbinger of threat, and some people say the United States should contain China as its long-term strategic goal. This voice is heard



even within the U.S. Government, particularly among specialists in naval strategy.

On the other hand, China also feels uneasy about "redefinition," which, they think, can be interpreted as "containment against China." Since the 1970's, China has regarded the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty as part of an anti-Soviet containment policy (and a Japan-containment policy), and the foreign affairs bureau of the Chinese Government expressed outspokenly its concerns about "the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty" last summer. "If the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty were to become a tool of an anti-China containment policy, China could never accept it. This is to give such a signal," explained a Chinese diplomat, who added, "However, the mainstream of Chinese leaders regards the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty as a stabilizing factor."

If the target becomes China, then the foundation of the Japan-U.S. relationship will be shaken. At this moment, the United States takes a stand that "it is wrong to regard China as an enemy" (Nye, former assistant secretary of defense). "We should not make the mistake of making China become our enemy by talking too much about the Chinese threat."

Therefore, for the time being, the stress is on tackling threats, that are "obvious and immediate crises" (Nye), such as in North Korea. However, there is a possibility of the realization of peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula in the future. Therefore, if we put too much stress on the North Korea threat, the *raison d'être* of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty will be questioned, if peaceful unification is achieved in Korea.

#### **Difficulty in Specifying Targets of Alliance; Questions Arise on the Reasons for Maintaining Forces in Japan**

##### **Warning Against Dangers in Searching for Foreign Enemies**

Regarding "redefinition," strong criticisms are heard against identifying foreign enemies without due consideration. Kurt Campbell, deputy assistant secretary of defense (in charge of East Asia), who promoted "redefinition" work with Nye stressed, "The significant change in the Japan-U.S. alliance is caused not by changes in Russia, or changes on the Korean peninsula, or changes in China. It is caused by changes in the Japan-U.S. relationship itself."

Questions also arise on the reasons for the "system of stationing 100,000 troops." If Korea becomes peaceful, the *raison d'être* for the presence of 37,000 military troops in Korea, and also 47,000 in Japan (or 60,000, if

members of aircraft carriers are added), will be totally brought into question.

Professor Jim Hour of Vanderbilt University, and a former chief of the Japan Office, Department of Defense, said, "If this is the case, the only requirement in Japan is a base for the Seventh Fleet, and there will be no requirement for the Marine Corps on Okinawa, which can be transferred to Hawaii or Guam."

On the other hand, Carl Ford, a former deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of the Defense (in charge of East Asia) said that a gradual withdrawal and reduction of forces is necessary, rather than sitting and waiting until the time comes. China will protest the presence of U.S. forces near the border with Korea, if South-North Korean unification is realized, and North Korea will propose the withdrawal of the U.S. forces as a condition for unification. In Korea, nationalism will be enhanced, driven by the unification, and the theory that U.S. military bases are unnecessary in Korea will be highlighted. If U.S. forces withdraw from Korea, concerns will arise against the presence of U.S. forces in Japan. People will ask why. Before things become like this, Ford is saying that it is important to gradually lighten and decrease the level and impact of the presence of the U.S. forces in advance.

People who support this view unanimously point out that "the important factor is not the number of troops, but the content of the presence." This is because "there will be many problems if we discuss the stationing of 100,000 troops as an immobile structure. If the U.S. Government decides to discontinue this structure, it will cause anxiety among allied nations, who will become concerned that the United States is not serious about defense issues" (Douglas Paarl, former assistant to the President)

##### **Concerns About Japan's Breakaway**

The bilateral alliance structure, including the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, and the multilateral confidence-building mechanism, which is being created in the East Pacific region, is still partly ambiguous.

The Clinton administration strongly believes, "Unlike the former administration, the current administration concentrates its efforts on making a multilateral and regional framework in terms of security. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is an example of this commitment" (an executive staff member of the White House).

However, the United States is becoming nervous over whether or not the above-mentioned commitment will loosen the bilateral security system. Regarding Japan, which is increasingly interested in regional security,



the U.S. Government cannot help but become doubtful, saying, "Japan's multilateralism is in fact secessionism; in other words, they are trying to find an invisible way to seek independence from the United States" (the U.S. Department of Defense). It has been pointed out that this concern is the background of the "redefinition" that has been hastily pursued under the Nye Initiative.

"Redefinition" of the Japan-U.S. alliance can be regarded as a search for mutual flexibility and strengthened affiliation by two countries to survive in the 21st century as global powers. "Without the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, the United States can never maintain global power" (Ford). This vision is not widespread, but it is widely supported by specialists.

Nevertheless, "redefinition" has not been finalized. This is probably due to the definition of "alliance." In the United States, "alliance" is considered to mean "to fight together when unexpected incidents occur" (Torkel Patterson, former assistant to the President). In other words, "a spirit of independence is a prerequisite." Regardless of the "redefinition," the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty will never go beyond the basic concept of an "interdependent spirit."

This is partly because "Americans do not expect Japan to become an equal power, despite their respect for independence" (Jim Hour).

#### **Japan: Okinawa Officials Reject U.S. Troop Marching Drills**

OW1602131796 Tokyo KYODO in English  
1232 GMT 16 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, Feb. 16 KYODO — The U.S. Marine Corps conducted a troop march on a national road in Okinawa prefecture on Friday [16 February] despite local citizens' demands that the U.S. military refrain from using civilian land for drills.

It is the first time that such exercises have been confirmed since the prefecture last November asked the central government in Tokyo to prohibit them when reviewing the bilateral Status of Forces Agreement, on the ground that military marches outside base compounds disturb local communities.

Okinawa prefectural officials confirmed that some 75 Marines left Camp Courtney in Gushikawa on foot around 5 A.M. and marched some 13 kilometers along prefectural and national roads in the area before returning to their camp 2 and a half hours later.

The soldiers wore camouflage outfits and carried backpacks, but had no weapons with them, the officials said. Another 150-strong contingent marched some 500 me-

ters along the national road passing Camp Schwab as part of drills conducted on the base.

The prefecture will file a complaint with the U.S. forces shortly, they said.

Local sentiment against the U.S. military presence is running high on Okinawa, where two-thirds of the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan are stationed.

Tension rose sharply in the wake of the Sept. rape of an Okinawan schoolgirl, for which three U.S. servicemen are standing trial.

A Marine Corps spokesman said the marches were ordinary drills meant to keep the soldiers fit. He said troop movements between U.S. military bases were allowed under the bilateral bases agreement.

The prefecture, however, argues that marches on civilian land constitute off-base drills that are different from a mere relocation of troops from one base to another.

#### **Japan: Editorial Criticizes U.S. Base Proposals**

OW1602134796 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese  
16 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "A Base Return Plan Forgetting the Okinawans' Demands"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a government source, in relation to the problem of U.S. military bases on Okinawa, the U.S. authorities are considering: 1) moving some of the air troops from Futenma Air Station to Iwakuni (Yamaguchi Prefecture); and 2) the return of the Northern Training Area.

If the United States thinks that these two steps will dampen the bases issue, we have to say it is seriously mistaken. On the contrary, this may even provoke the Okinawan people.

The government source said that there is a strong possibility that these two proposals will form the backbone of the solution to the Okinawa issue when U.S. President Bill Clinton visits Japan in April. Here, we need to reassess the existence of U.S. bases in Okinawa.

We are surprised by the serious gap between our perception of the bases and that of the United States. If the United States thinks that these two proposals will solve all problems, it is seriously misinformed.

We hope that is not what the U.S. Government thinks. Both former Governor Junji Nishime and Governor Masahide Ota have repeatedly appealed to the United States directly on the bases issue. The prefectural assembly has just sent a nonpartisan mission to the



United States. Even though they have talked to only some key officials, we believe the Okinawan people's message has been conveyed to a certain extent.

Despite such efforts, if the answer to all this is "only two proposals," then we are really distressed. Then, how different is this from the Price proposals of the mid-1950's?

Right now, Okinawa Prefecture regards Futenma Air Station to be the most important facility to be returned. This air base, which sits right in the middle of a downtown area, causes not only noise problems, but is also extremely dangerous because of all the past aircraft crashes. Moreover, it dismembers the city of Ginowan, and obstructs its development.

In response to this main item in Okinawa's demands for the return of bases, the United States claims that "in view of the situation in North Korea, it would be difficult to make the return right now." It plans to move a C-130 transport air squadron (12 aircraft) to the Iwakuni base to paper over the issue. These 12 aircraft represent only one-fifth of the 60 aircraft stationed at Futenma. This, clearly, will not improve the situation.

The return of the Northern Training Area was proposed because of the "low frequency of training there" and "high costs for activities in the distant training ground" — the offer was not made in consideration of Okinawan people.

The Northern Training Area, which covers an area of 7,800 hectares, makes up about 30 percent of the total area of U.S. bases in Okinawa. It appears the United States views the return of the training ground as politically effective because the U.S. occupied area will drastically decline without the facility.

We are not against the return of the Northern Training Area. Rather, we want an early return of the training ground because the area includes water resources and the habitats of precious wildlife.

But we want to see a complete return of Futenma Air Station at the same time.

The prefectural government's action plan for return of U.S. military facilities defines Futenma as the top priority issue, aiming at the creation of urban development under a peaceful environment in line with the so-called international city development plan. We hope the Japanese and U.S. Governments will understand the goal set by the Okinawan government cannot be reached with a partial transfer of Futenma's units.

#### **Japan: UN Official Akashi Discusses Aid to Africa, DPRK**

*OW1602085896 Tokyo KYODO in English  
0832 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO — UN Undersecretary General Yasushi Akashi urged Japan on Friday [16 February] to extend further humanitarian assistance to African countries which face serious problems.

In an interview with KYODO news, Akashi, who will assume a new post as head of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs on March 1, said, "There are many problems in the world and the United Nations must respond to these issues relative to their degree of seriousness."

He said, "In Africa there are many countries which face serious situations such as Rwanda, Burundi, Angola and Somalia."

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs oversees organizations involved in humanitarian activities such as the UN Childrens Fund and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

"I hope Japan will utilize its know-how for such disaster measures to aid Africa through UN agencies," Akashi said.

As for food aid to North Korea, he said the UN is waiting to see what actions Pyongyang will take.

North Korea has said the UN need no longer ask countries to send aid to help it overcome the effects of devastating flooding last year, citing the poor reaction to the world body's request for assistance for the country.

Akashi, a Japanese national who oversaw UN-led peace efforts in Cambodia, had been in charge of UN peace-keeping efforts in the Former Yugoslavia until last November and now serves as a special adviser to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

#### **Japan: Diplomat Barred From Taking Goods Out of Russia**

*OW1602065196 Tokyo KYODO in English  
0626 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO — Russia's customs authorities have seized a Japanese diplomat's personal effects to confirm whether they are items which are allowed to be legally taken out of the country. Foreign Ministry officials said Friday [16 February].



The officials said it is true the Russians have been keeping since Sunday what they allege are art treasures which are banned from being taken out of the country.

However, they said Toshiro Sato, 63, consul at the Japanese Consulate General in St. Petersburg, was not taken into custody over his alleged attempt to smuggle out antiques as Russia mass media had reported.

The officials said the items the Russian authorities will hold for a period of time are a 20-dollar copper lampstand, a cast-iron ornament of eagle, an earthen ornament in the form of a camel worth about 50,000 yen and a flower vessel worth some 80,000 yen.

Sato was quoted as saying he forgot how much the eagle ornament cost because he bought it five or six years ago.

They said Sato had his possessions seized at a checkpoint near Vyborg, just east of the border with Finland, where he was crossing to go on a private trip.

The diplomat intended to send the items from Finland to Japan prior to his return in March, when he is to reach retirement age and leave the Foreign Ministry, the officials said.

Tokyo has asked Moscow to clarify details about the matter as quickly as possible, the officials said.

#### **Japan: DPRK Asks Entry Forms for Asian Olympic Trials**

OW1602122296 Tokyo KYODO in English  
1157 GMT 16 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO — North Korea has indicated that it will take part in the Asian swimming trials for the Atlanta Olympic Games, Japanese swimming officials said Friday [16 February].

The Japan Amateur Swimming Federation (JASF), which serves as the secretariat for the Asian Swimming Federation, said it has received a fax message from North Korean Swimming Federation asking for entry forms for the Asian championship, to be held in Bangkok in April.

JASF officials said they have passed the message to the Thai organizers of the event, which serves as an Asian zone qualifier for the Atlanta Games.

#### **Japan: Article Views Possible DPRK Desperation Moves**

OW1602120596 Tokyo SAPIO in Japanese  
24 Jan, 7 Feb 96 (combined issue) pp 16-19

[Article by Nobuhiko Ochiai, nonfiction writer and commentator on international politics: "North Korean

Armed Refugees' Began To Infest China-DPRK Border!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea seems to have gone at last into the "final countdown" to its collapse, due to the serious food crises and ensuing big floods in the summer of 1995. Another serious piece of information about North Korea came in from Beijing.

An armed band of 16 North Korean soldiers was reported to have crossed the Yalu River and sought refuge in Liaoning Province, China.

"Armed refugees," what I have been afraid of most, began to threaten China.

Tipped off about the information by a friend at China's Foreign Ministry, I lost no time in flying to Beijing to cover the "signal of the collapse of North Korea" in detail. This is the latest report on this serious piece of information.

At last North Korea's "armed refugees" have made an appearance. The implications are entirely different from what the multitude of people who asked for asylum so far have implied.

From North Korea, innumerable people have made desperate escapes to China and then asked for asylum in the ROK. Most of them, however, were ordinary citizens, mostly farmers and students. They represented people at the bottom of society who suffer first when the state economy is impoverished.

In recent years, however, those who were supposed to have been given preferential treatment in North Korea, including government officials and soldiers, have made a series of exits. Then, there came the recent mass exodus of armed soldiers. (They are currently under investigation at a detention house at Dandong in Liaoning Province. According to Chinese sources, they were said to include not only low-ranking soldiers but also a quite number of senior officers.)

After intruding into China, they broke into a farmer's home at dusk, probably because of hunger. The surprised farmer notified the authorities and the intruders took to their heels. Wandering about the unfamiliar and totally unlit town, a total of 16 soldiers were arrested one by one.

When they were discovered by the authorities, they were said not to have resisted at all, and this is entirely different from the past cases.

There were cases in the past of DPRK soldiers being involved in intrusions into Chinese territory for the purpose of plundering food. They resisted violently at those times and made their way back into North Korea.



often resorting to fire fights. This time, on the contrary, no resistance was attempted. They had no wish to return, they deserted their "fatherland."

Many besides the 16 apprehended this time seem to have succeeded in escaping, leading to a supposition that their group might have consisted of more than 50 soldiers. (The DPRK side, when notified of the incident, strongly denied such a thing could happen. It is reported, however, that three DPRK officials in charge are now visiting Dandong city to seek interviews with the fugitives.)

#### **Riddles About "Peddlers of Rice Straw Mats Becoming Millionaires" In Chinese Territory Along North Korean Border**

What was the reason behind the desertion of such a large-scale group of armed soldiers to seek asylum?

Soldiers are supposed to be getting the best treatment in North Korea, despite the food crisis. Such treatment is natural for North Korea which is in a semistate of war under the "national policy" of southward invasion (aggression—liberation of the ROK). But those soldiers went hungry and deserted their fatherland. Although situations may vary by area, it seems to testify to the fact that even military stockpiles of food have hit bottom.

These frequent cases of soldiers seeking refuge also reveal that the discipline of the military itself has become lax to a great extent. In this connection, it must be noted that an officer of the highest rank so far (senior colonel—a rank above full colonel) made his way to ask asylum in the ROK in October 1995. Unmistakably there are considerable disturbances within the military ranks.

The food situation in North Korea has continued to worsen, government rations dropped drastically and starving people were forced to live off the roots of rice stalks. Many people lost homes to flooding (the DPRK announced 100,000 families of half a million people lost their homes and the actual figure is supposed to be the same). How can they survive the winter during which the temperature goes down to 20 degrees centigrade below zero?

Shocked by the terrible plight, China was said to have sent 1,800 tons of cotton as humanitarian aid. With only 1,800 tons of cotton, hardly one-half of needed bedding could be made available.

These days, residents in the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture of Jilin Province, bordering North Korea, are reported to be making a fortune by peddling rice straw woven mats to North Korea. North Koreans use them to shelter themselves from coldness. It is no

resurgence of an old tale about men who have made fortune by weaving and peddling rice straw mats, but the appearance of such millionaires testifies to the fact that rice straw, hence rice itself, is extremely scarce in North Korea.

Under such circumstances, DPRK authorities are reported to be enforcing thorough and tight controls. For example, those found stealing more than 500 kilograms of rice are given capital punishment. Prostitutes, who had been leniently dealt with in the past in view of their obtaining foreign currencies, are now destined to go to jail even on the first offense, and half of them are reported to be condemned to death.

#### **"The Last Ally" China Also Gives Up**

Regarding the plight of the neighboring country, China, the "last ally," has recently changed its attitude.

For example, in May 1994 when I was covering the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture in Jilin Province bordering North Korea, a local resident told me "of a North Korean family of three who illegally entered China." "One day they were taken back forcibly to North Korea by men supposedly dispatched by North Korea, who pushed chains through the holes they made in their noses." This sort of thing seemed to have taken place from time to time, but China has pretended not to see in seeming consideration to its "ally."

But the situation has become untenable recently; China cannot overlook it. The DPRK has escalated its reaction to such an extent that it dispatches troops to China to assassinate these exiles. The DPRK must be desperate, because it cannot tolerate any more exiles and national discipline becoming disorderly, although such actions seem like something from spy novels. For China, on the other hand, this constitutes a serious infringement on its sovereignty.

Such North Korean moves resulted in voices of dissatisfaction among the Chinese military and police officers guarding the border. Thus Chinese Government authorities stiffened their attitude and began to stop such cases thoroughly. China, which had not checked North Korean trucks smuggling narcotics, notified the DPRK that it would take severe punitive actions against them thereafter. (These narcotics find their way to Hong Kong, Japan, and the United States by way of Japanese and Hong Kong mafias who enter China via Hong Kong.)

In December 1995, Chinese leaders in the party, government, and military pointed out in a report they compiled the "possibility of North Korea's launching aggression against the ROK." With respect to such analysis, China



is on the alert with a large-scale strengthening of military preparations along the China-DPRK border to prevent North Korean refugees from escaping into its territory.

In China's official view, the "DPRK is" still "its ally." A senior official of China's Foreign Ministry I interviewed said the same thing. But its real intent is completely different. This is clear at a glance from the fact that China's President Jiang Zemin made a state visit to the ROK before the DPRK in November 1995 and conferred with ROK President Kim Yong-sam. It is natural for China to look toward the well-to-do ROK rather than the burdensome DPRK.

North Korea does not like this. Lately, Radio Pyongyang has been making comments frequent such as "We must be on guard against U.S. and Japanese imperialism, but there is a wolf in a sheepskin to the north." To the north means China and it is no other than the DPRK's supreme leader, Kim Chong-il, who uttered such a statement.

Hitherto, China has maintained a pro-DPRK stance in line with the opinion of elderly military leaders that "the DPRK is a comrade in arms in the revolutionary struggle." As the generational change is in progress, China is taking a resolute stand toward the DPRK.

#### **DPRK People's Army Makes Disquieting Moves**

What will be the next move of the DPRK, which is driven into the corner by "the last ally" forsaking it?

To begin with, the disquieting movement of the DPRK Peoples Army must be scrutinized.

At the end of October 1995, the DPRK conducted winter military maneuvers by mobilizing about 440 air force planes in the vicinity of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the DPRK and the ROK. It was one of its annual routine military exercise with more or less a large scale. A strange movement followed. Less than 100 aircraft, including MiG 17's, 19's and so on, remained at three bases within a 40 kilometer perimeter from the DMZ after the exercise. This is an unprecedented "extraordinary" movement. This switch shortens the time required for DPRK planes to reach Seoul from eight to six minutes.

Furthermore, the DPRK army was reported to have increased the number of 170-mm self-propelled and 240-mm artillery pieces to a total of 140 in the vicinity of the DMZ.

It is an unmistakable presumption that the DPRK, driven into a corner, plans to tighten its internal control and at the same time is making preparations "to take a gamble on victory or defeat" at any moment.

With its economy in distress, the DPRK is unable to keep up the maintenance of weapons and to import spare parts. First of all, the essential fuel is in short supply.

The only way left is to launch a once-and-for-all "surprise attack." For that purpose, Seoul must be taken in the shortest possible time and victory must be won. That can be possible only within the next two to three years before the weapons become too obsolete and good for nothing.

In a short-range view, this year's one to two months of winter is extremely dangerous. On top of the food shortage, the short supply of fuel makes it impossible to warm North Koreans to the idea. It is not totally impossible for the DPRK to launch an attack in one fell swoop before popular dissatisfaction explodes and disturbances take place. At the same time, the ROK is in the midst of political confusion with former presidents No Tae-wu and Chon Tu-hwan arrested, and it is a more opportune chance than the DPRK could have wished for.

It is natural for them to bet on the possibility, if all other ways are blocked and their only way for survival is limited to "southward invasion."

The appearance of armed refugees is an important signal testifying to the critical situation in North Korea, which has no other way but to choose such a worst-case script.

Should the DPRK launch a southward invasion, the United States would, of course, not tolerate it. When China's chief of state, Jiang Zemin, met U.S. President Bill Clinton in New York last autumn, the two leaders agreed to install a hot line between them. A man related to China's intelligence organization told me that the two countries tacitly agreed at the same time that China would not take any action, even if the United States retaliated with a strike on the DPRK.

#### **Three-Hundred Thousand Boats Waiting Along the North Korean Coast Facing the Sea of Japan**

A large number of refugees would attempt to escape all at once, if disturbances broke out within North Korea or when it failed in its attempt "to invade the South." (I firmly believe that it would fail for sure).

Under such circumstances, it is highly conceivable that armed refugees would surge into Japan as they recently did in China.

As I mentioned earlier, China has reinforced its troops along the border and intensified its control against the ever-increasing number of North Korean transgressors. Neither is it easy for them to cross the DMZ to escape into the ROK. Then, it is no wonder that they would head for Japan where their relatives (Korean residents in Japan) are.



In this connection, there is important information. North Korea has assembled from 250,000 to 300,000 speed boats with a capacity of about 10 people along the coast facing the Sea of Japan. What is the reason behind the assembling of such a large number of boats when the North Korean economy is in stress? Are they not intended for escape by sea in case of emergency?

Here, I recall several kidnapping cases of Japanese couples by the clandestine North Korean special agents from the Sea of Japan seashore in the 1970's. These incidents testify to the fact that they can easily penetrate into Japanese territorial waters and reach land.

Armed North Korean refugees assault cities and towns facing the Sea of Japan....

I wonder how many politicians would have imagined such a worst case. There is no longer a moment to lose. The government is urged to work out measures to cope with armed refugees immediately. As the winter advances, there certainly is every possibility of this happening.

#### **Japan: Policy Boards Heads Scheduled To Meet ROK Ambassador**

OW1602130296 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN  
in Japanese 16 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Heads of policy boards of three coalition parties, including Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party Policy Research Council, will meet ROK Ambassador to Japan Kim Tae-chi as early as next week, a senior official of a coalition party said on 15 February.

According to the coalition official, the meeting was decided upon at the request of the ROK.

#### **Japan: PRC Official Criticizes Linking Aid to Nuclear Tests**

OW1602121996 Tokyo KYODO in English  
1059 GMT 16 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO — A Chinese participant at an international symposium on Japan's government aid to developing countries Friday [16 February] criticized Tokyo's decision to freeze its grant-in-aid to China because of China's nuclear tests.

Zhao Jieqi, deputy director of the Institute of Japanese Studies under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said Japan was the first country that has linked its aid to China to a political issue.

The decision impinges on the development of bilateral relations, Zhao said.

Aid experts from 12 countries discussed Japan's policy concerning Official Development Assistance (ODA) in a two-day symposium in Tokyo, which started Thursday.

Akira Nakajima of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Cooperation Bureau said the freezing of Japan's aid to China reflected the strong Japanese feelings against nuclear weapons and also came in line with the international trend toward stricter calls for nonproliferation of nuclear arms.

Nakajima, however, stressed that Japan's support to China's reform policy remains unchanged.

Lee Poh Ping, professor at the University of Malaya in Malaysia, voiced skepticism about linking aid to political issues, asking if there are any good criteria for measuring how democratic a country is.

UN Undersecretary Yasushi Akashi argued that it is not a matter of which is more important, development or democracy.

What's really important is to consider ways to harmonize in the long run development and democracy, taking account of special social and cultural conditions in Asia, Akashi said.

#### **Japan: SDP Approves Dispatching Team to Taiwan**

OW1602130396 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN  
in Japanese 16 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] On 15 February, the Social Democratic Party [SDP] Standing Committee approved a dispatch of full-time party staff to Taiwan 19-23 February. The purpose of the personnel dispatch to Taiwan is to "invite Taiwan people to an international seminar planned in April, and adjust schedules with them" (as noted by the SDP International Bureau). In Taiwan, the SDP staff is expected to meet legislators of the Democratic Progressive Party [DPP], Taiwan's largest opposition party, which advocates "Taiwan's independence" in its party platform.

Basically, the SDP supports the "one China" doctrine on the Taiwan issue, and maintains friendly relations with the CPC. However, there was no specific opposition to the official personnel dispatch for the first time partly because "exchanges between Japanese and Taiwan lawmakers has been active at the individual-level" (as noted by the SDP International Bureau). The SDP later announced "we do not think the personnel dispatch goes against the 'one China' principle."



**Japan: Takemura Calls 'Jusen' Plan 'Political Judgment'**

OW1602132496 Tokyo KYODO in English  
1055 GMT 16 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO — Former Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura said Friday [16 February] the government's plan to shell out 685 billion yen to clean up the financial mess of housing loan companies was a product of the "highest political judgment" by the cabinet and the ruling coalition.

Takemura, who was finance minister when the government announced the plan in December, said "it was a final judgment entailing the highest responsibility."

Takemura was one of the four politicians summoned Friday as unsworn witnesses to the House of Representatives Budget Committee to testify on the government's package of using taxpayers' money to help liquidate the seven failed housing loan firms, known as "jusen," to prevent a major financial crisis.

He said the amount of public funds to be used for the plan was determined by an assessment that agriculture-related financial institutions which have heavily loaned housing loan firms cannot possibly stand any losses more than 530 billion yen.

Under the government scheme, these agricultural financing organizations are required to donate 530 billion yen to the seven jusen firms which folded with massive bad loans after being paid back all of the total of 5.4 trillion loans to them.

Moreover, the financial institutions that set up the housing loan companies and other institutions that lent money to them are required to give up their loans worth 5.2 trillion yen.

The government plans to pay off the remaining 685 billion yen of the initial 6.41 trillion yen worth of losses.

On the disputed memorandum exchanged between the finance and farm ministries in 1993 which discussed steps to bail out the housing loan firms, Secretary General Koichi Kato of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said it can be seen as a virtual guarantee of repayments on the capital of the loans of the agricultural financial institutions to the jusen.

"The mother institutions (which set up the housing lenders) were in hot water. I think the memo embodies the atmosphere at that time," Kato said.

At that time, both ministries were involved in negotiations over a bailout plan for the jusen after a sharp fall in land prices left the firms saddled with mountains of bad loans.

Kato also said former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa considered using taxpayers' money to salvage the housing loan firms around the summer of 1992, but the plan failed to materialize in the face of strong opposition from businesses.

Former farm minister Masami Tanabu said he was told about the memorandum by ministry officials just before it was agreed to, while former Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said he was not briefed on the document when he took office in August 1993.

Earlier in the day, a former Finance Ministry official indicated the governing LDP is partly to blame for the surge in bad loans at the failed housing loan firms because of its slow response to the Finance Ministry's call for fresh legislation regulating such nonbank moneylenders.

Also testifying at the lower house panel, Masaaki Tsuchida, former head of the ministry's banking bureau, defended a ministry instruction in 1990 which called for financial institutions to curb the growth of loans to real estate companies. Housing loan firms were not covered by the ministry instruction.

Tsuchida, who was banking bureau director general at the time of the decision, said the Finance Ministry asked the LDP, which was then the single ruling party, to legislate a bill on tightening controls on nonbank financing companies because the ministry did not have direct jurisdiction over them.

Tsuchida said he explained to LDP members about the need to strengthen control on nonbank companies to curb land price rises, but many LDP lawmakers were negative in response to it and were not willing to submit such a bill to the Diet.

He was speaking as one of seven unsworn witnesses summoned before the panel Friday to testify on the controversial government scheme to liquidate seven failed jusen companies.

The Finance Ministry is criticized for the March 1990 decision which excluded nonbank companies from being subject to regulations requiring financial institutions to keep the growth of real estate-related lending below that of overall lending.

Osamu Yasuhara, president of the Fuji Juken realtor group, the largest borrower from the housing loan firms with a total of 298.8 billion yen in borrowed money, told the committee that land prices surged and then fell due to various regulations introduced by the government which were not compatible with each other.



Yasuhara also said he views his responsibility gravely and will do his utmost to pay back the debts to the housing lenders.

**Japan: Ex-Official Says LDP Responsible for Bad Loan Surge**

*OW1602060596 Tokyo KYODO in English  
0531 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO — The governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is partly to blame for a surge in bad loans at failed housing loan firms because of its slow response to the Finance Ministry's call for fresh legislation regulating such nonbank moneylenders, a former top ministry official indicated Friday [17 February].

Again testifying at the House of Representatives' Budget Committee, Masaaki Tsuchida, former head of the ministry's Banking Bureau, also defended a ministry instruction in 1990 that called for financial institutions to curb growth on loans to real estate companies. Housing loan firms were not covered by the ministry instruction.

Tsuchida, who was Banking Bureau director general at the time of the decision, said the Finance Ministry asked the LDP, which was then the single ruling party, to legislate a bill on tightening controls on nonbank financing companies because the ministry did not have direct jurisdiction over them.

Tsuchida said he explained to LDP members about the need to strengthen control on nonbank companies to curb land price rises, but many LDP lawmakers were negative about it and were not willing to submit such a bill to the Diet.

He was speaking as one of seven unsworn witnesses summoned before the Budget Committee on Friday over a controversial government scheme to liquidate seven failed mortgage companies using 685 billion yen of taxpayers' money.

The Finance Ministry is criticized for the March 1990 decision that excluded nonbank companies from being subject to regulations requiring financial institutions to keep the growth of real estate-related lending below that of overall lending.

Osamu Yasuhara, president of the Fuji Juken Realtor Group, the largest borrower from the seven housing loan firms with a total of 298.8 billion yen in borrowed money, told the committee the land prices surged and then plunged due to various regulations introduced by the government that were not compatible.

Yasuhara also said he views his responsibility gravely and will do his utmost to pay back the debts to the housing lenders.

**Japan: 'Jusen' Debtors Contributed to Kajiyama, Nakagawa**

*OW1602121496 Tokyo KYODO in English  
1131 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO — Six companies in debt to failed housing loan companies to be liquidated by using public funds contributed a total of 2.72 million yen to Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama between 1991 and 1995, Kajiyama said Friday [16 February].

Leading contractor Kumagai Gumi Co. gave 1 million yen in a political donation to Kajiyama in 1994, Tokyo contractor Fujita Corp. provided 600,000 yen in 1991 and 1992, and Tokyo realtor Ryoyu Kusan gave 400,000 yen in 1991 and 1992, the government spokesman told a regular press conference.

Separately, Kumagai Gumi paid 420,000 yen for tickets of fund-raising parties held for Kajiyama, Tokyo realtor Shoen Tochi Kaihatsu paid out 120,000 yen for such tickets, Fujita 80,000 yen, Tokyo contractor Ishihara Construction Co. 60,000 yen and Tokyo realtor Time Share International 40,000 yen, all during 1995, Kajiyama said.

Many of the six debtor companies' debts to the troubled mortgage companies, called "jusen," are apparently recoverable, he said.

With the seven firms virtually bankrupt, mainly due to loans extended to real estate companies, the government has decided to use at least 685 billion yen in taxpayers' money, possibly rising to more than 1 trillion yen eventually, to liquidate them.

Kajiyama said he has not received political donations nor had party tickets bought by any of the seven housing loan firms themselves.

The announcement followed Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's disclosure in the Diet earlier in the month that he received a total of 9.88 million yen in political donations from four of the top 100 debtors of the mortgage firms.

The House of Representatives Budget Committee disclosed information on the top 100 debtors of each of the seven housing loan firms after the cabinet released the data to the panel in a bid to gain public support for the liquidation scheme.

Kajiyama has requested other ministers in Hashimoto's 20-member cabinet to check whether they have received



donations from the housing loan firms or their debtors, but it is up to individual cabinet ministers whether or not to make such information public, he said.

Meanwhile, Science and Technology Agency Director General Hidenao Nakagawa admitted he has received a 1.5 million yen political donation from the president of a real estate company that borrowed heavily from Jyuso Inc., one of the seven housing loan companies subject to the government liquidation plan.

Nakagawa told a press conference that he received the money from Tadao Mitsui, president of the real estate firm Sansei, in 1986 and reported the donation as required.

The real estate firm is on the list of the top 100 borrowers from the housing loan company, with 5.6 billion yen in outstanding loans as of June 1995.

#### **Japan: Coalition Confirms Holding-Firm Bill Outlined Within Feb**

OW1602121296 Tokyo KYODO in English  
1144 GMT 16 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO — The ruling coalition confirmed Friday [16 February] it will draft by the end of February the outline of a bill to amend the Antimonopoly Law and lift a 49-year-old ban on holding companies, an issue dividing the governing camp, coalition sources said.

A coalition task force for the antitrust law amendment convened for the first time Friday, when it agreed to put aside bills proposed independently by coalition parties and start afresh its debate on conditions for lifting the ban, the sources said.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto stressed the importance of lifting the ban at a news conference, saying, "With a deregulatory drive going on, we want to create an environment conducive to the emergence of new business fields."

"I hope the coalition will reach a conclusion as soon as possible," he said.

The coalition has decided to permit holding companies as long as they do not run counter to the objectives of the nation's antitrust policy, and to submit a bill for lifting the ban during the current parliamentary session.

But the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the largest member of the tripartite coalition, has been at loggerheads with the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the second largest, over how extensive the relaxation should be.

The LDP backs a Fair Trade Commission (FTC)-drafted plan under which holding companies will be allowed

unless they are deemed likely to amass excessive business control. They will be required to register with the government if their assets top 500 billion yen.

However, the SDP argues for a more restrictive plan which will permit four types of holding companies, including venture capital companies and financial institutions consolidating their businesses, on condition that they win a go-ahead from the FTC.

New Party Sakigake proposes banning holding companies whose total assets would top 15 trillion yen. Would-be holding companies with assets of more than 5 trillion yen will have to seek the official nod, while those with assets topping 300 billion yen will have to register with the government.

The coalition task force will now start discussing the matter again from the outset, taking into account the opinions of small businesses, labor unions and academics, according to the sources.

#### **Japan: Editorial Views 'Jusen' Responsibility**

OW1502140696 Tokyo EKONOMISUTO in Japanese  
13 Feb 96 pp 42-46

[Article by EKONOMISUTO Editorial Board: "War Criminals Who Will Throw Tax Money Down the Drain"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If we look into the causes of the housing loan corporations [jusen] issue, we will come up with a long list of failures and mistakes: the failure of the Ministry of Finance's [MOF] Banking Bureau and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries' [MAFF] Economic Affairs Bureau to make correct policy judgments; their failure to do anything about the situation promptly and the subsequent mistake of taking so much time to act on it; the failure of involved private banks, blinded by greed, to follow banking rules; the managerial failure of agricultural cooperative-affiliated banking institutions [nokyokei banks]; the mistake of norinzoku dietmen [dietmen lobbying for MAFF and agricultural industry interests] in getting involved, which only aggravated the situation; and jusen managers' failure to take care and exercise control of fund operations. As far as the norinzoku dietmen are concerned, the people who elected them to the Diet may be responsible to a certain degree; but other than that, not one failure or mistake had anything to do with the general public.

In spite of that fact, public money is about to be spent to resolve the problem.

Looking back on the whole thing, the MOF apparently made a great mistake when it did not include jusen



in the list of controlled institutions, which are subject to supervision if they obtain loans for the purpose of investing in real estate.

Masaaki Tsuchita, who was involved in formulating a number of regulations [as director of the MOF Banking Bureau] in 1991, later tried to justify the MOF action, saying: "Those regulations were not based on law and were only intended as administrative guidance, but they were rather strict regulations. So we decided to apply them only to private banking institutions of and below city bank level, over which the government can exercise supervisory control, ordering improvement of operations if necessary. But there is a limit to what we can do to control private businesses, using the power of administrative guidance, and I thought we were going a little too far with guidance. Certainly I did not mean to belittle jusen. At that time, jusen were institutions controlled by the old Investment Law, which was intended to put a rein on high interest rate loans, and they were obligated to make reports under that law. This condition made it rather difficult for us to include them on the list of controlled institutions."

#### **Crime Committed by Making Them "Untouchable"**

Around that time, strong voices of the people were complaining about high land prices and demanding actions to remedy the problem; and the MOF, no longer able to ignore such social demands, decided to go for a total amount regulation system [soryo kisei—a system of containing loans by limiting the total amounts of loans banks can make]. Actually, soryo kisei is an old-fashioned control technique. The ministry chose to resort to that technique, pushed into it by a delay in its land tax reform plan, which the politicians did not like.

What is evident is that, first of all, the MOF should be held accountable for not doing things it should have done and for choosing to employ a rather out-of-bounds technique in dealing with the land price problem. In other words, by choosing soryo kisei, an out-of-the-way technique, and by excluding jusen and nokyokei banks from the list of controlled institutions, the ministry made the jusen and nokyokei banks "untouchable" [preceding word in English]. Inasmuch as there were norinzoku dietmen behind the nokyokei banks and old MOF retirees behind the jusen, there is no other way but to say "they were excluded intentionally" — however much the ministry may want to contest that charge. Consequently, loans to jusen by the nokyokei banks soared, jumping by 54 percent to 2,902.5 billion yen in one year by the end of March 1990, and by 67 percent to 4,859.7 billion yen in one year by the end of March 1991.

Let us say the MOF's action was unavoidable in view of the land price problem, but it still could have prevented

jusen from falling into such a debacle if the MOF had fulfilled its check functions. The Loan Business Control Law of 1983 stipulates that the main business of jusen is to provide "individual housing loans" and obligates jusen to file quarterly reports on the condition of their loans.

An official of the MOF Banking Bureau who was involved in the matter indirectly admitted, "I was not directly involved at that time. So, it is rather difficult for me to talk about it, but maybe the MOF should have raised a question on swelling jusen debts and should have warned the MAFF about the nokyokei banks' loans." (But in fact the MAFF did not have enough crisis consciousness about the situation then. An official of the MAFF Economic Affairs Bureau recalled: "The nokyokei banks in those days had trouble using their money, and the prevailing thinking was that they should let jusen have the money.")

Furthermore, Tsuchida himself, who headed the MOF Banking Bureau at the time, should be held accountable for not taking appropriate actions when the business condition of jusen was beginning to deteriorate. For instance, when the MOF found Japan Housing Loan Company [JHLC] in bad business condition, it attempted to conduct an inspection of the company; but its attempt was rejected by Keiichiro Niwayama, an MOF retiree who was president of the company. Tsuchida was said to have gone to Niwayama to beg him to accept the inspection. If that story is correct, then that is not a stance for a supervisory government office to take. We cannot call that anything but an obsequious attitude toward former officials of the MOF. Tsuchida is known as a conservative bureaucrat, but he failed to take timely actions in those days of rapid changes, and he should be held accountable for his failure. We must not also forget that incumbent Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto was finance minister at that time.

Bank managers cannot be exempted from blame, either. Before the MOF decided to put a brake on real estate-related loans, the ministry had warned the banks times and again to ensure that all precautions were taken in making loans, but the bank managers never did change their careless attitude.

A former ranking official of the MOF said: "To be frank, we feel betrayed by the city banks and other private banks involved. While we were unable to exercise soryo kisei over jusen under the old Investment Law, we thought we could achieve the same purpose by having these banks, which were the main banks with investments in jusen, fully exercise their power of control. As it turned out, on the ground that the banks themselves could not make loans to jusen directly,



they acted as intermediaries, making investments in the nokyokei banks, which then used the funds for loans to jusen, which in turn used the money to invest in real estate."

This tells the story of how irresponsibly the bank managers — the same people who created the bubble economy — had acted. Furthermore, many of the bank managers who were responsible for all these failures still remain in power as bank presidents or chairmen. To be sure, actions on the jusen issue have been influenced by interference from the administration and politics; but after all, these interferences have been made possible by mistakes committed by the bank managers. They have talked about the possibility of taking legal liquidation (bankruptcy), but have never tried to do that (as it had no intention at all to do so). The bank managers now are acting as if they were victims, but certainly they cannot escape from the charge that they were thinking only about themselves and never tried to take actions expected in a country of law and order.

In 1993, when the second jusen restructuring plan was formulated, there were already voices in a quarter of the main jusen banks saying that a limit should be set on jusen's bad credit problem and that legal liquidation actions should be taken. The banks should have acted on jusen at that point rather than formulating a plan to reconstruct them. While the credits outstanding in the norinkei banks were rapidly growing after 1990, the loan funds were being used up in real estate. And the national bubble economy was about to burst. It was clear to everyone that efforts to reconstruct jusen would be futile.

Some officers of the banking industry and the MOF, though belatedly, admit that actually the action plan on jusen the MOF is proposing to take now (aside from the question of whether all the details of it are appropriate or not) should have been adopted and implemented at the 1993 stage.

### **Guilty of "Doing Nothing"**

Nobuyuki Teramura, then director of the MOF Banking Bureau, and Takeki Manabe, then director of the MAFF Economic Affairs Bureau, are the ones who shirked decisions and covered up the reality of the situation by adopting a simple 10-year refinancing plan and calling it a restructuring plan. They were "guilty of failing to do anything."

At the final meeting with main banks (on 26 March 1993) to discuss the matter of restructuring the JHLC — the first target in the second restructuring plan — MOF officials put pressure on the main banks that objected to the plan. The JHLC probably was in a financial

quandary, but the MOF officials are said to have gone so far in helping the company as to have bank delegates bring their cellular phones into the meeting room so that they could contact their banks' chief executive officers and get responses from them instantly, without leaving that room. Furthermore, the MOF's attitude was not to ask if the banks' answer was "yes or no," but just asking them to say "yes."

Teramura does not want to talk about that matter now, but one ranking official who was involved in the work of supervising banks with him recalled: "If the nokyokei banks had insisted on withdrawing their money and the MOF had allowed it, all jusen would have gone bankrupt at once. Around that time, there were latent uncertainties in the business condition of the private banking industry and the economic condition of the nation. Letting jusen go bankrupt would have had a serious negative impact on the economy, sending stock prices into a tailspin. Given the situation, the MOF had to make a very heartbreaking decision and to go for the restructuring plan while placating the nokyokei people. At that point, however, we were absolutely against using government financing to resolve the problem." What he said was that the ministry chose that course of action, given the special situation, but was aware that it was not the right thing to do.

A banking official said: "No doubt the MOF entertained a vague hope that with the government's economic stimulus measures taking effect, land prices would stop falling and rebound, and the business condition of both jusen and the nokyokei banks would improve."

Asked about this comment, a former official of the MOF Banking Bureau admitted: "To be sure, there was hope of the jusen condition improving, helped by a rise in land prices. It does not mean we were altogether optimistic, but there was hope that since the government was pouring in a rather drastic amount of money to stimulate the economy, the economy would improve, thus averting aggravation of the bad credit problem."

In other words, the ministry committed a double fault, first by making a decision it should not have made and then by making a wrong assumption about the direction of the economy. These facts make it clear that the issue was left on the back burner thereafter, and that the time since then has not only been wasted but actually used to aggravate the problem and increase the cost of resolving it. During that time, however, the ministry has taken the precaution of removing the old MOF retirees from key posts in jusen, so that they could not be held accountable.

There was another grave development. On 3 February 1993, the MOF and MAFF exchanged a memorandum



in which they agreed: "The restructuring of the JHLC will be carried out under the responsibility of the main banks. The MOF will take care that the nokyokei banks will not be required to bear any burdens in addition to what they are required to under the current restructuring plan." The memorandum was intended to block the nokyokei banks from withdrawing funds from jusen, but that was the starting point of "giving special treatment to the nokyokei banks," which would result in continual pouring in of government funds.

The MOF surrendered to the MAFF, which trampled on the rules of banking by "threatening" to withdraw the nokyokei banks' money from jusen. And the two parties who signed the "memorandum" were these two: Teramura and Manabe. That is what the JHLC's minutes on the meeting of the main banks recorded.

An executive officer of a city bank who attended that meeting said: "I had stuck by a logical solution for a full year, but the meeting ended in a regrettable result. Except for one bank (Sanwa Bank, which supported the restructuring plan), no banks were actively supportive of it. They all only said they would accept the plan 'if it was agreeable to all the other parties.' That was very strange. That would leave the most serious root of trouble in the history of the banking industry. I felt so helpless."

Opacity in moves to come up with the latest action plan also is a matter of major concern. What amplified that problem was the political fight that erupted at the final stage of formulating the plan — the shameless and selfish fight between norinzoku and okurazoku dietmen [dietmen lobbying for the interests of the MOF and the financial industry]. Masayoshi Takemura, then MOF minister, and Hosei Norota, then MAFF minister, can be said to have been "guilty of committing these criminal acts."

The MAFF put pressure on the MOF, asserting that the nokyokei banks could collapse under burdens too heavy for them and that such burdens could also have a serious impact on Japanese agricultural production, and eventually succeeded in getting the MOF agree to have the nokyokei banks' principal loans of some 5.5 trillion yen to jusen returned to them and provide an additional 530-billion-yen "donation." Since private banks, meanwhile, were pressured to give up their credits and shoulder additional financing burdens, this action was extremely inappropriate. Objectively speaking, it was clearly unfair to assign burdens to the banking institutions that were involved together in the jusen issue. It can be said that the nokyokei banks borrowed the power of the norinzoku dietmen to get their way, and that became the seed of trouble.

This shows how irresponsible the top managers of the nokyokei banks were. Apparently, horrified by the prospect of being fired from their posts and having to surrender their personal property, they hung on to the norinzoku dietmen, entreating for help.

They are guilty of breaking the private banks' operational rules on fair sharing of burdens. They are also guilty of contriving to make up the shortfall of funds with government money.

If we look at the history of how the nokyokei banks first got involved in the deals, we can see that they were drawn into them in 1990 and 1991 at the suggestion of the jusen's main banks, which urged the nokyokei banks to work with them in extending loans to jusen, promising to guarantee repayment of principal. Given that history, many people speak sympathetically of them. But in today's fully opened-up banking world, they cannot be free from the charge that they lacked responsibility and were sloppy in loan qualification screening and in risk management. The fact that they have kept on running away from doing their part of duties shows they are not qualified to live in the current age of banking liberalization. It also shows how the nokyokei bank people had been corrupted by the "spoils system" that came from the past practice of protecting the rice market before the market was forced to open up under the Uruguay Round agreements.

At the time the nokyokei banks' loans were rapidly growing, Hidetaka Tsutsumi was head of the MAFF Finance Division. He also allowed surplus funds of credit cooperatives [shinren] to be channeled to jusen and other nonbank institutions and to be used in buying stocks and bonds. He might not have ordered it, but he did permit it.

### Guilty of Cheating

In explaining the latest plan to use the government money, the officials are citing only an abstract reason for it — a need to stabilize the banking system. If the MOF had wanted to atone for the crimes committed by Class-A and Class-B criminals, it should have stuck to the position of going by the rules of the private banks, however strong the pressure from the norinzoku dietmen might have been. Doing that would have indeed led to stabilizing the banking system and would have provided an argument against the view that the MOF is useless and should be dismantled.

But the MOF bureaucrats chose not to do that. They lied about the opacity of their actions, and pretended that their highhanded act was not highhanded. And Vice Minister Shinozawa, who knew the irrationality of such pretense, quit his post at the end of last year. Soon



after that, Minister Takemura fled his post, using the resignation of Prime Minister Murayama as his chance to do so. They were the people responsible for deciding on the jusen action plan, but they ran away like soldiers deserting their positions right in the middle of a battle. Their act can be called a suicide by the MOF. Now "there is no one left" in it. All that is left is the action plan using tax money.

It must be remembered that MOF officials have not yet taken responsibility for causing the bubble economy, either. By 1988, creeping asset inflation was visible to everybody; but even then, they insisted the situation was only one of "expanding inventories of assets." And when the Bank of Japan (BOJ) expressed concern about inflation by alluding to it as "dry wood about to catch fire," the MOF officials put pressure on the BOJ not to utter even a word about "asset inflation."

Heavy penalties should be meted out to the MOF officials who were involved in the self-righteous act of attempting to rebuild government finances through tax revenues that might rise with the help of the bubble economy and in the arbitrary act of manipulating government financial policy as they pleased. Akira Kiyota, governor of the Bank of Japan from 1984 to 1989 and a former official of the MOF, who created the cause of the bubble economy, and (the late) Tadashi Sasaki, who created the cause of sky-rocketing prices, will be recorded in the nation's financial history book as the Bank of Japan governors responsible for the two biggest mistakes made by the government since the end of the war. Regrettably, other MOF bureaucrats will not be left in the historical record.

Jusen are nothing but "MOF, Inc." The managerial responsibility for them should rest on the bureaucrats involved in them as well as on the managers of the companies themselves. These bureaucrats must take responsibility in a socially and economically appropriate manner.

#### **Japan: Coalition Working on MOF Reform 'Blueprint'**

OW1602133796 Tokyo KYODO in English  
1156 GMT 16 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO — The three ruling coalition parties agreed Friday [16 February] to work out a blueprint by late June for the reorganization of the Ministry of Finance (MOF), party officials said.

Under the agreement reached at a top-level meeting of the three parties, a coalition task force will complete the blueprint by the end of the current regular Diet session June 29, the officials said.

The three ruling parties are the Liberal Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and New Party Sakigake.

The task force will be headed by Shigeru Ito, chairman of the SDP's policy board, the officials said.

Calls for reorganization of the ministry have strengthened in the ruling camp in connection with Diet debate on a government scheme to use 685 billion yen in public funds to help cover losses stemming from the liquidation of seven virtually bankrupt housing loan firms.

Coalition sources said the task force will consider a range of proposals to break up the Finance Ministry and create agencies in charge of financial policies as well as tax and other revenues.

Through the breakup of the ministry, the ruling coalition wants to promote a review of Japan's financial policies and reconstruct strained fiscal conditions, they said.

Analysts, however, said the coalition's breakup proposals are expected to meet strong resistance from the ministry, which claims that the present way of managing both fiscal and monetary policies at the ministry is the most effective possible.

An idea which initially gained momentum as one of the measures to review the ministry's financial policies is the necessity to separate the banking, securities and international finance bureaus from the ministry and creating a new agency to cover the three areas.

As Diet debate makes clear agricultural financial institutions' loose lending positions and the government's slow response to the bad loan issue at the mortgage companies, however, there are growing calls in the governing coalition for a broader review of Japan's financial policies.

As a result, the ruling coalition's review work is now likely to include farm lenders now supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, leasing, consumer credit and other nonbank moneylenders looked over by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, and credit unions supervised by prefectural governments and the Bank of Japan's inspection system, ruling sources said.

The Finance Ministry, however, is showing a skeptical view toward the moves. "It would be difficult to implement such an overhaul of financial policies in only half a year," a ministry official said.

As a measure to review fiscal policies, meanwhile, the ruling coalition is seeking to create a new agency by combining the National Tax Administration Agency and



the Finance Ministry's tax bureau, the ruling sources said.

There are also moves among the coalition parties to have the envisaged agency deal with pensions and other social security issues in addition to local taxes which are now covered by the Home Affairs Ministry, they said.

The Finance Ministry has refuted such ideas, saying sound fiscal policy management is difficult enough without handling revenues and expenditures as one set.

#### **Japan: Panel Subcommittee Proposes NTT Breakup**

OW1602052096 Tokyo KYODO in English  
0440 GMT 16 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO — A subcommittee of an advisory panel to the telecom minister proposed Friday [16 February] breaking up Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) into a single long-distance and two regional telephone companies by the end of fiscal 1998, officials said.

The Telecommunication Council, which received the subcommittee's report, will decide on the handling of the proposal Feb. 29 before submitting its report to Posts and Telecommunications Minister Ichiro Hino, the officials said.

The government will make a final decision on the future of NTT, Japan's telecommunication giant, by the end of March, they said.

The proposal recommends that the long-distance phone company be totally privatized, and be allowed to operate in international and domestic telecommunication services as well as in the mobile phone business, they said.

The two regional phone companies, covering the western and eastern halves of Japan respectively, should be allowed to engage in telecommunication services through cable television networks as well, according to the proposal.

In order to realize the plan, the government is also required to take wide-ranging deregulation measures, the officials said.

As for international telecom service operator KDD, the proposal recommends that KDD be allowed to enter the domestic telephone market, they said.

#### **Japan: Chemical Firms Ready To Boost Capital Spending**

OW1302085996 Tokyo KYODO in English  
0758 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 13 KYODO — Japanese petrochemical makers are set to boost capital

spending as the active production of synthetic fibers by Asian manufacturers has increased demand for purified terephthalic acid (pta) and other materials, industry sources said Tuesday [13 February].

Mitsui Petrochemical Industries Ltd., for example, has decided to build a PTA plant in Thailand, in addition to a plant under construction in Indonesia.

Production of synthetic fibers is increasing in Asia because governments are promoting it as a key step toward industrial development, the sources said.

In addition, the output increase, especially in Asian countries with large populations such as China and India, has resulted from their policy of converting cotton fields into food-producing farmland.

According to the Japan Chemical Fibers Association, production of synthetic fibers in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) increased 10.5 percent in 1995 over the previous year to 1.47 million tons, while production by Japanese, U.S. and European makers either decreased or leveled off.

China expanded its production by 5.6 percent to 2.7 million tons, the world's second highest after that of the United States.

But as the production of materials requires advanced technologies and massive capital outlays, Asian manufacturers are unable to catch up with the demand for synthetic fibers. For example, China's production of polyester fibers, which are made from PTA, decreased 8.3 percent in 1995 to 1.67 million tons.

Japanese as well as U.S. and European petrochemical makers are therefore poised to increase their production of such materials in Asia.

In addition to Mitsui, Mitsubishi Chemical Corp., among other Japanese makers, is considering expanding its PTA plant in Indonesia, company officials said.

### **North Korea**

#### **DPRK Commentary Urges U.S. To Abandon 'Confrontation Notion'**

SK1602025396 Pyongyang Korean Central  
Broadcasting Network in Korean  
1225 GMT 14 Feb 96

[Commentary by Kim Ho-sam: "They Should Abandon the Confrontation Notion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States is now making very serious military moves in the areas surrounding the Korean peninsula.



According to a radio report from Seoul, the U.S. Navy forces in South Korea began staging a war exercise called "Valiant Usher 96- 2K" on 9 February. During this war exercise, which will continue for 10 days until 18 February, the U.S. Navy will stage various types of naval exercises, including an aircraft carrier mobile exercise, one after another.

Synchronized with this war exercise, the U.S. aircraft carrier Independence and various other Navy ships belonging to the U.S. 7th Fleet left the Japanese port of Yokosuka, heading for the waters of the Korean peninsula.

Laney, U.S. ambassador to South Korea, openly disclosed that F-15 and F-16 fighters, (?stealth) planes, and guided missile cruisers are participating in the Valiant Usher 96-2K exercise.

On the other hand, the U.S. Forces are staging a long-range bombing exercise aimed at our Republic, beginning 13 February. This bombing exercise, which will continue until 15 February, is mobilizing four B-52 and B-1B strategic bombers from the states of North Dakota and South Dakota in the U.S. mainland.

As is seen, in February the United States is frantically staging unprecedentedly large-scale war exercises by mobilizing an aircraft carrier and aircraft equipped with nuclear weapons.

Because of such adventurous war exercises by the United States, a unprecedented war atmosphere prevails around the Korean peninsula and a tense situation is being created there. This situation is also greatly influencing the overall situation of Northeast Asia. It is not accidental that the world's opinion is expressing deep concerns about the creation of such a serious situation on the Korean peninsula and the rest of Northeast Asia.

Commenting on the moves of the U.S. Navy ships concentrating on the waters around the Korean peninsula, Japan's NHK noted that such moves remind us of the time when the United States deployed a number of nuclear-powered aircraft carrier mobile units on the waters around the Korean peninsula about two years ago with a suspicion on North Korea's nuclear development.

Such NHK comments are not groundless. What is the real aim of the U.S. unprecedentedly frantic military exercises which are being staged on and around the Korean peninsula in February? Needless to say, these U.S. military exercises are aimed at testing our will and show that the United States has not renounced its wild ambition to crush us militarily, because otherwise there is no reason whatsoever for the United States to concentrate the aircraft carrier and other Navy ships

on the waters around our country and to go so far as to mobilize strategic bombers from the U.S. mainland while running counter to the world's trend of seeking detente and peace.

The invariable basis of the U.S. policy toward the DPRK is to press us by force and, thus, to achieve its wild ambition for domination. This basis has been vividly proven by the recent war exercises alone. However, this is indeed anachronistic and foolish.

Now is not the time to press others by force. In particular, the United States should not renege the promise made to us. Between us and the United States there is the historic joint document called the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement, which they concluded on the basis of mutual trust. Even the U.S. President promised to implement this agreement.

The DPRK-U.S. framework agreement is being implemented in actuality. Nevertheless, if the United States continues to threaten us by mobilizing such a large number of armed forces at this point in time, clouds will be undoubtedly cast over the implementation of the agreement.

For the United States to promise us not to threaten us with nuclear weapons when sitting face to face with us and to act counter to the promise when sitting the other way round cannot be viewed as a reasonable act.

It is also needless to say that the U.S. concentration of the Armed Forces of its Navy and Air Force in the area surrounding the Korean peninsula and its staging of dangerous war exercises there have had a bad effect on the situation of Northeast Asia.

If the United States really wants peace on the Korean peninsula, it should renounce its confrontation notion of attempting to exercise force in this region first and, at the same time, should provide a legal basis by which a durable peace can be ensured in this region. What is such a legal basis? It is precisely the proposal to establish a new peace-guarantee system that we have put forward.

If a peace agreement is signed between us and the United States, the relations of belligerence [kyojon kwangye] between the DPRK and the United States will end forever and a durable peace will be established on the Korean peninsula.

Nothing can be solved through military threat and blackmail. Military threat and blackmail are also not beneficial to the United States itself. Our consistent position is to respond to force with force. We are ready for both dialogue and war. The United States should clearly know this will of ours and should renounce its



military frenzy. We will continue to watch the U.S. attitude in the future.

**DPRK: ROK Businessman Tak Yong-tae Defects to DPRK**

*SK1602041396 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
0407 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 16 (KCNA) — Tak Yong-tae, 52, of South Korea has defected to the northern half of Korea.

Hailing from Seoul, he was enlisted in the South Korean puppet Army before finishing the course at Hanyang University. Later, he worked as the president of the Singuk Corporation and director of the Supok Textile Co., Ltd.

His mother, son and daughter remain in South Korea.

Referring to the motive of coming over to the North, he said he made up his mind to defect to the North after thinking it proper to do good things for the working masses in the North instead of making wealth for thief kingpins such as Kim Yong-sam in South Korea.

While working as a businessman, he came to have a good knowledge of the structural contradictions of the South Korean economy as well as of the great potentials of the self-reliant economy in the North, he said, and went on:

"While staying overseas on a business mission, I read on several occasions the reminiscences of the great President Kim Il-song 'With the Century' and works of General Kim Chong-il, and keenly felt that for the prosperity and happiness of our nation it is necessary for the economy to be under the guidance of the general.

**DPRK: ROK Businessman-Defector Visits Kim Il-song Statue**

*SK1602043696 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
0417 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 16 (KCNA) — Tak Yong -tae of South Korea who defected to the northern half of Korea visited the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill, laid a bouquet and made bows before it.

**DPRK: Media Warned Not To Join 'Smear Campaign' Against DPRK**

*SK1602102996 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
1021 GMT 16 Feb 96*

["Fact Must Not Be Distorted" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 16 (KCNA) — Mass media of some countries are now

joining some hostile forces in their smear campaign against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, acting their political waiting maid.

They quoted ITAR-TASS as saying that a citizen of the DPRK armed with a pistol went to the Russian Embassy here and filed an application for refugee status in Russia.

In connection with their misinformation, we feel it necessary to clarify the fact.

The man in question is a serious lunatic who has suffered from a mental disease after committing murder.

Alleging that such a person sought a "political refuge" in other country is a foolish and ridiculous logic proper to those with no common medical knowledge.

The Russian side admitted that the lunatic came to the Russian embassy after committing murder. So, it cooperated in extraditing him to our side.

He is now under medical treatment in a hospital.

It is dishonorable for unbiased news media to misinform the people with the insignificant fact.

By partaking of the hostile forces' plots to impair the prestige enjoyed by our republic in external relations, the media of some countries have fully revealed that they are a group of hacks bribed by the hostile forces.

We will never remain an onlooker to their despicable campaign against the DPRK. Nothing can destroy the singlehearted unity of the Korean people.

They must stop engaging in hackwork, as demanded by the hostile forces.

**DPRK: Hwang Chang-yop Meets Brazil's Rural Workers Group**

*SK1602044096 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
0409 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 16 (KCNA) — Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on February 15 met and had a friendly conversation with the delegation of the rural workers movement of Brazil led by its General Secretary Joao Pedro Stedile [as received].

Present on hand was Yi Chong-won, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea.

Saying that the Korean people's spirit of heroic struggle gives confidence and courage to the peoples struggling against domination and subordination, the head of the



delegation expressed the belief that a greater victory is in store for the Korean people.

He expressed best wishes for longevity to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on his 54th birthday.

**DPRK: WPK Delegates Meet With Brazilian Delegation**

*SK1602043596 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
0401 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 16 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] had talks with a delegation of the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil here on Feb. 15.

Both sides exchanged views on developing the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties and on other matters of common concern.

Present on the WPK side were Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the WPK, and other officials concerned and on the opposite side were the members of the delegation headed by Sergio Rubens, deputy secretary general of the C.C., the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil.

**DPRK: Nepal Communist Party Delegation Arrives**

*SK1502135096 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
1312 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxism-Leninism) led by Madhav Kumar Nepal [spelling of name as received], general secretary of its Central Committee [C.C.], arrived here today.

The delegation was met at Pyongyang Railway Station by Secretary Hwang Chang-yop and Vice-Department Director Kim Yang-kon of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea.

**DPRK: Kim Chung-nin Speaks at Bangladesh Delegates Reception**

*SK1502052796 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
0318 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] gave a reception for Garib Newaz, president of the Bangladesh People's League [BPL], on Wednesday.

Secretary of the WPK Central Committee Kim Chung-nin said in his speech that the Bangladesh People's League elected the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il its honorary chairman last October and President Garib

Newaz is visiting Korea on the holiday of February. Kim Chung-nin thanked the league and warmly welcomed his visit.

He said the WPK and the BPL forged bonds of friendship long ago because of the commonness of their cause and purpose and have exchanged support and cooperation.

The WPK will make active efforts to continue developing the friendly and cooperative relations with the league in idea of independence, peace and friendship, he said.

Garib Newaz said his league became a party of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as it elected him its honorary chairman.

Organisations have been formed to study and disseminate the great chuche idea in Bangladesh and work is underway to apply the idea in the country, he said.

He said he extends congratulations to Comrade Kim Chong-il on his birthday.

**DPRK: Choe Tae-pok Speaks at Central Report Meeting**

*SK1502123296 Pyongyang Korean Central  
Broadcasting Network in Korean  
0703 GMT 15 Feb 96*

["Report" by Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) Central Committee and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, at a central report meeting marking the 54th birthday of Kim Chong-il at the April 25 House of Culture — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrades:

Today, we meaningfully celebrate the 54th birthday of the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il with great national dignity and pride in the baronial environment in which all people throughout the country are accelerating the general onward march of the new year to vigorously demonstrate the trait of the socialist DPRK while upholding the red flag.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il was born in the secret camp on Mt. Paektu, the sublime mountain of the revolution, during the sublime anti-Japanese struggle, and grew up in the flame of the guns of a severe revolutionary war. He began to carry out revolutionary activities in his early days with great intent to consummate the chuche revolutionary cause, thus accumulating immortal achievements before the party, the revolution, the fatherland, and the people. His birthday, as well as the meaningful April holiday, is the



greatest national holiday which is the most meaningful to our party and people. [applause]

At this meaningful moment, when we are celebrating the felicitous February holiday along with all party members, and with the people's fervent adoration and boundless loyalty, I extend the greatest honor and warmest congratulations to Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people, who is brilliantly implementing the great leader's [suryongnim] lofty, life-long intent and idea with his outstanding and seasoned leadership, and who is accumulating immortal and valuable achievements before the party, the fatherland, the times, and mankind. [applause]

Comrades:

The entire course of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] revolutionary activities shines as the most sublime and glorious history of the great successor and outstanding leader [kolchurhan yongdoja] of the party and people, who considers it his life-long mission to succeed and complete the chuche revolutionary cause pioneered by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Il-song and who is brilliantly implementing it. [applause]

The succession of the popular masses' cause of independence, the cause of socialism, is the succession of the leader's [suryong] cause; when the leader's [suryong] successor is great, the leader [suryong] can live forever and his cause and achievements will shine forever. This is an iron-firm truth that is proved by the world socialist movement.

Watching the tragic situation in the international arena in which the betrayers of socialism woefully destroyed working-class parties and states, which they once revered along with their leaders, and have rehabilitated capitalism, our party and people have deeply realized their great fortune in upholding the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il as the great successor of the chuche revolutionary cause and as the sagacious leader [yongmyonghan yongdoja] of the party and people.

Because our party and people uphold Comrade Kim Chong-il—who has shouldered the heavy responsibility of the party and the revolution for these 30 years; who has closely assisted the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song; and who has wisely led the cause of party building, Army building, and socialist construction along the single road of victory—at the head of the party, the state, and the Army, they display the highest honor and dignity of brilliantly inheriting and completing the leader's [suryongui] cause. [applause]

The great traits of Comrade Kim Chong-il as the most loyal inheritor of the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary cause, and as the sagacious leader [yongmyonghan yongdoja] of the party and the people, were most impressively demonstrated by the fact that he wisely aroused the entire party membership, the entire Army, and all the people to the sacred struggle to continue the historical march of our revolution for generation after generation when our people writhed in agony in great loss during the period of great national mourning when they abruptly lost their fatherly leader.

In the painful days of July 1994, the year of tears of blood and the most sorrowful and painful in our 5,000 year national history, our people did not fall but stood up unyieldingly. This was possible because we had firm faith that we would uphold another great leader [widaehan yongdoja], General Kim Chong-il, who exactly resembles the fatherly leader [oboi suryongnim].

In the period of one year and seven months since the fatherly leader [oboi suryongnim] passed away, the respected and beloved general [kyongaehanun changgunnim] implanted deep in the hearts of all the people the faith that the great leader [widaehan suryongnim] is with us forever, and has wrought the sublime days of loyalty and filial duty of upholding the leader [suryongnim] as they did when he was alive and of concentrating all our efforts on the sacred work of inheriting and developing the leader's [suryongnimui] ideology and cause.

The magnificent scene of today, in which all people all over the country are devoting their wholehearted loyalty to the leader [suryongnim], wishing the fatherly leader [oboi suryongnim] eternal life, and firmly believing and following the leader [suryongnim] as their backbone, is literally the true feature of our society of taking after their leader's [yongdojaui] great traits, as well as the sacred spirit of chuche Korea fostered by the boundless loyalty of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] to the leader [suryong] and his cause and by his noble morality and fidelity. [applause]

Embodying the firm faith and will to uphold Comrade Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation, forever as the eternal leader [yongwonhan suryong] of our party and revolution, and to inherit and complete the chuche revolutionary cause to the end, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] has built the most noble, glorious, and eternally brilliant achievement of loyalty and filial duty by sublimely building the Kumsusan Memorial Palace as the greatest national treasure of the Kim Il-song nation and of the supreme holy land of chuche, and by respectfully upholding the



fatherly leader [oboi suryongnim], the founder of the socialist Korea, as if he were alive. [applause]

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the glorious Workers Party of Korea, the respected and beloved general saw to it that the Party Founding Monument, Chongnyu Bridge, and the No. 2 Kum-nung Tunnel were grandly built in Pyongyang so as to pass down the great leader's [suryong] immortal revolutionary achievements for generations, and to further exalt the leader's [suryong] idea on building the capital. In addition, he wisely led the brilliant building of the Pyongyang-Hyongsan tourist expressway in the way the leader [suryong] dearly hoped for in his lifetime.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] also saw to it that the events celebrating the 50th anniversary of the party's founding were grandly held, and published the classic work "The WPK Is the Party of Comrade Kim Il-song" on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the party's founding.

In October of last year, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] dedicated his heart and soul to hold the grand military parade, mass demonstration, torch light march, and other events as a great political festival for the great leader [suryong]. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK], the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] strengthened and developed the LSWYK, the strong political reserves of the WPK, as the League of Kim Il-song Socialist Youth. Herein lies the unwavering will, noble loyalty, and filial duty of the great general who has worked to boundlessly exalt the esteemed name and immortal achievements of the leader [suryongnim] and has upheld the fatherly leader [oboi suryong] more dearly than when he was alive. [applause]

The historic work "Respecting the Forerunners of the Revolution Is a Lofty Moral Obligation of Revolutionaries," which was published by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] at the end of last year, is an immortal library for communist moral construction that embodies lofty communist morality as well as the noble features and virtues of the respected and beloved general, who is a model of a great revolutionary and a prominent popular leader [yongdoja]. [applause]

The world is struck with wonder after seeing an example of the morality of socialist politics from the great leader's [widaehan yongdoja] lofty moral obligation toward the fatherly leader [oboi suryong] and his lofty traits of respecting the forerunners of the revolution.

From this, the world learns what kind of stance and position the inheritor of the leader [suryong] should assume in upholding the leader [suryong] and his cause, and how the forerunners of the revolution should be respected.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] has opened up a new path for the most noble revolutionary moral ethics, a path which cannot be seen in any part of the world. Deeply valuing the beautiful and clean loyalty and filial duty of the people who endlessly miss the fatherly leader [oboi suryong], the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] has taught that we should discharge our duty as reliable pupils and good sons and daughters in accordance with the tradition of Korea, the country of courteous people in the East, and that we should singleheartedly devote all filial duty to the leader [suryong], which is not enough.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is a great political leader, an unprecedented and perfect picture of loyalty and filial piety, and a peerless great man who has a thorough view of the leader [tuchorhan suryonggwon] and immortal loyalty to the great leader [widaehan suryongnim] at the highest level, and who considers the consummation of the leader's [suryongnim] cause as his life-long mission and noblest virtue. [applause]

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has the same idea, goals, and intent as the great leader [widaehan suryongnim]; he is today's Comrade Kim Il-song. [applause]

The line of the revolution is the line of the revolutionary guiding idea; it is the greatest historic mission of the leader's [suryong] successor to defend, protect, and constantly enrich and develop the leader's [suryong] revolutionary idea. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is the first follower of the great leader's [widaehan suryongnim] revolutionary idea and his primary successor [uttumganun kyesungja].

With his extraordinary ability of inquiry, keen insight, and clairvoyant power, the respected and beloved general completely conquered in his early days all existing towers of knowledge stored by mankind in all sectors, such as politics, philosophy, economics, history, culture, military, and diplomacy. He has registered immortal ideological and theoretical achievements by carrying out boundlessly profound, many-sided, and unique ideological and theoretical activities that are run through with creativity and the sense of the times. He is highly admired by the revolutionaries and progressive people



of the world as an unparalleled philosopher, an ideologist and theorist who possesses profound theories and iron- firm logic, an all-round and erudite person who has both literary and military accomplishments, and a great man of great men. [applause]

Now, various anti-people and anti-socialist ideological trends are rampant in the world because of the lack of ideas and philosophies; the communists and people of many countries are experiencing difficulties because the lines of their revolutionary guiding ideas have been broken. However, thanks to the ideas and theories of the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has completely personified the immortal chuche idea, our party and people have been able to stoutly proceed with the revolution according to the great leader's [widaehan suryongnim] ideas and intent, without the slightest ideological confusion or deviation, and our country is highly demonstrating its dignity and trait as a political power and as an ideological power. [applause]

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] ideological and theoretical achievements in defending, protecting, developing, and enriching the great leader's [widaehan suryongnim] revolutionary idea are comprehensively and orderly expressed in his immortal classic works, which serve as a brilliant beacon, an almighty precious sword, and an immortal militant banner not only for our revolution, but for the construction of the world socialist movement and the victorious advance of mankind's cause of independence. [applause]

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is indeed a doer-type man who turns great ideas into great realities. He is a master of leadership as well as a genius of creation and construction who has a perfect and seasoned leadership ability, ever-victorious brilliant tactics, unrivaled grit, extraordinary organizational ability, and a staunch revolutionary sweep as good as the fatherly leader's [oboi suryong]. [applause]

In the era of independence, all the brilliant achievements made in the construction of and activities of the great Comrade Kim Il-song's party, a chuche-type party that leads the reconstruction of the world's socialist movement while pioneering the victorious road for the construction of the revolutionary party; the singlehearted unity between our party and the people, in which the leader [suryong], the party, and the masses are in perfect unity; and all the proud accomplishments made in the construction of an independent national socialist economy as well as in culture, art, education, science, public health, and sports are noble fruits of the outstanding

leadership of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] who wisely leads the entire party, all the people, and the entire Army to the consummation of the chuche revolutionary cause with outstanding ability and extraordinary leadership ability. [applause]

Today, the chuche socialist cause vigorously marches along the road of victory under conditions in which the anti-socialist and anti-Republic maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries are growing endlessly harsh. It also shines with the respected and beloved general's great leadership, which strongly fortifies our country's socialist position as an impregnable fortress that cannot be approached by any enemy, as well as with his unusual military wisdom, resourcefulness, and peerless grit. [applause]

By upholding the great commander Comrade Kim Chong-il [widaehan yongjang kimjongil tongji], who has brilliantly inherited the cause of the chuche military construction pioneered by the respected and beloved leader [kyongaehanun suryongnim], as the supreme commander of our revolutionary armed forces, our people and the People's Army boast themselves as a proud people and an invincible Army that has built our chuche fatherland into a major military power and that always achieve victory after victory in tense political and military confrontations with the imperialists.

From his early days, the respected and beloved general [kyongaehanun changgunnim] has attached importance to military affairs and has poured his heart and soul into the chuche-based building of the revolutionary armed forces. By doing so, he has strengthened and developed the People's Army as a one-is-a-match-for-100 revolutionary armed force which has been firmly prepared in political and ideological terms as well as in military technique. This is a powerful military guarantee that firmly ensures the constant advance of the chuche socialist cause in any worldwide upheaval, and a precious gain of the revolution that gives boundless relief to all the people. [filing to be resumed at 2300 GMT on 15 February]

Our people and the People's Army that uphold Comrade Kim Chong-il—the genius of the revolution and iron-willed brilliant commander [kangchorui yongjang] who has the extraordinary ideological and theoretical wisdom and outstanding political and military leadership and turns misfortune into fortune in the worst adversity, bringing along victory after victory—as the leader of the party and the revolution and as the supreme commander of the revolutionary Armed Forces will always be victorious, overcoming all difficulties in their



advance and defeating any powerful imperialist enemy. [applause]

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is not only a creative-type genius [changjohyongui yongjae], a brilliant commander-type great man [yongjanghyongui wiin], and the most experienced and refined leader of the revolution, but also he is a model of socialist political leaders who has the most sublime humanity [indok] and a benevolent father [chaaeroun oboi] of the people. [applause]

The love for and trust in man is the great political conviction and revolutionary philosophy of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji]. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji], who exactly takes after the sublime moral influence [sung-gohan tongmang] of the great leader [widaehan suryongmin] and makes the idea of serving the people like heaven his theory of the revolution, stated that the people are teachers and that there cannot be the leader [yongdoja] who parts from the people, and always brings the people under the spotlight and solves all the problems arising in carrying out the revolution and construction relying on the people.

The heart-moving slogan "We serve the people," which is put up everywhere in our country today, warmly contains the respected and beloved general's [kyongaehanun changgunnimui] absolute trust in and infinite love for the people. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is the great benefactor and teacher who takes charge of and looks after the destiny and future of all our people, embraces all the members of society with boundlessly warm comradely love and revolutionary fidelity, brings them up to be revolutionaries, and carefully leads and protects them so that they can add luster to their sociopolitical life to the end. [applause]

Because there is the benevolent bosom of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] who has the warm humane feelings [injongmi] of always regarding man first and treasures man and the noble character of taking responsibility for and looking after people's destiny to the end, walking as far as 1,000-ri in the night if it is for the sake of the revolutionary comrades, sharing joy and sorrow with the people, and visiting without hesitation the forefront guardpost, which confronts the enemy with guns, and giving love to the brave fighters in the front, our people are firmly united with noble comradeship and fidelity on the single road of upholding the party, the ranks of the entire People's Army are overflowing with the spirit of

loving soldiers, and the noble, beautiful virtue of Army-people unity is in full bloom in the entire society.

The politics of benevolent love and trust, the politics of benevolence of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il — who is the thorough protector of the interests of the popular masses — is the source of inexhaustible strength in fostering all of our people into loyalists and dutiful children who uphold and follow the party and the leader [suryong] with loyalty and in deepening the whole society into a great revolutionary family firmly united as one mind. It is also an eternal vitamin which makes it possible for our revolutionary ranks to vigorously advance forward with firmness and optimism, while surmounting all sorts of difficulties. [applause]

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is the center of great national unity and the great guiding star of reunification who is upholding the great leader's [suryongnim] noble national reunification plan and brilliantly realizing it. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, keeping deep in his mind the sacred cause of national reunification to which the fatherly leader [suryongnim] devoted all his efforts and energy until the last moment of his life, is now devotedly struggling to open a new phase in achieving great national unity and the cause of national reunification by presenting outstanding policies and strategies in conformity with the demands of the developing revolution and situation.

Today, the South Korean people and our compatriots overseas are fervently revering and following the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il — who is devoting great efforts and energy to realize the long-cherished ardent desire of all fellow countrymen for national reunification at the earliest possible day — as the great leader [widaehan yongsu] of the nation, the savior [kuseju] of reunification, and the sun of guidance [hyangdoui taeyang]. At the same time, they are also vigorously rising up in the struggle to achieve national reunification under the banner of the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is the great leader [yongdoja] who is brilliantly elucidating the victorious road of the independence cause of mankind, the cause of socialism, to provide a new world of independence through his profound ideological and theoretical activities and energetic external work. [applause]

The outstanding leading ethos of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, who elucidates the future road of the cause of socialism of the world by scientifically analyzing all complicated situations developing in the international community through his



farsighted wisdom, gives several hundred millions of the people of the world — who are now struggling to revive and rebuild socialism and to achieve the world's peace and progress — firm conviction of the future and firm faith in victory.

Indeed, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is the matchless great man, the genius of the revolution, and the great people-oriented leader [yongdoja] who possesses extraordinary ideological and theoretical wisdom, outstanding and tested leadership art, and infinitely noble character and features. [applause]

It is the greatest happiness and glory of our people to uphold the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il — who is the great man of great men and who is leading the chuche revolutionary cause to victory with his excellent ideology and leadership, cherishing boundless loyalty to and lofty moral obligation to the leader [suryong] — as the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and the revolution and as the eternal supreme commander. [applause]

Comrades, today we face the heavy yet glorious task to inherit and carry to accomplishment the chuche revolutionary cause pioneered and led by the great leader [suryongnim], and to firmly defend, protect and further glorify popular mass-centered socialism of our own-style by upholding the leadership of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

All party members and people should actively rise in the struggle to fulfill the lofty mission assigned by the time and revolution, according to the party's militant slogan, "Let us vigorously demonstrate the spirit of socialist Korea by highly upholding the red flag!"

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Our party members and workers should have unswerving loyalty to invariably trust, follow, and uphold only Comrade Kim Chong-il, their leader, whether in time of peace or in time of arduous trial.

Rendering loyalty to the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il with the sense of absolute worship of the general is a basic guarantee for consolidating as the indomitable stronghold the political and ideological position, economic and military position of socialism — three great positions of socialism in our country — by unswervingly grasping the red banner of revolution which was highly upheld by the great leader [suryongnim] in the Paektu forest. This also ensures the ultimate accomplishment of the chuche cause.

All party members and people should have firm faith that as long as we uphold the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, our destiny is guaranteed, the bright future of the nation and people is ensured and the ultimate victory

of the chuche revolutionary cause is certain. Thus, they should loyally and single-heartedly uphold ideas and leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il. [applause]

We should keep in mind the fatherly leader's earnest behest calling for the firm unity around the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, and should defend as our own eyes the singlehearted unity between the party and revolutionary ranks with the great leader [yongdoja] as the center. We should thoroughly establish the revolutionary discipline and order under which the entire party, the whole Army and all people move as one.

All party members and people should assume as their faith for struggle the spirit of the 7th Regiment which defended the headquarters of the revolution with life in the Paektu forest during the period of arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. They should unswervingly defend and protect the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is our destiny and highest brain [choego noesu], politically, ideologically and with our lives, at any time anywhere. We should become genuine loyalists and faithful sons who unswervingly march along the arduous long revolutionary path by absolutely trusting only the respected comrade supreme commander. [applause]

All party members and people should actively follow and learn from noble communist morality and lofty trait of the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great revolutionary and great man who has the sense of loyalty to the leader [suryong] at the highest level. Thus, we should respectfully uphold the great Comrade Kim Il-song as the permanent leader of our revolution and should firmly defend the revolutionary tradition and revolutionary achievements made by the leader [suryong]. We should unswervingly and purely inherit them. We should also carry to accomplishment the chuche revolutionary cause along the single road of revolution traversed by the leader [suryong]. [applause]

We should firmly arm ourselves with the revolutionary ideology of our party, the chuche idea, in response to slogan of faith, "Let Us More Thoroughly Arm Ourselves With the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song's Revolutionary Ideology," presented by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il and should resolutely struggle to prevent all sorts of reactionary and alien ideologies from infiltrating into our society. Thus, we should firmly deepen our political and ideological position of socialism into an impregnable fortress.

As the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il taught, respecting revolutionary seniors is precisely the lofty moral obligation that all revolutionaries should possess.



All party members and the people should always treasure the high revolutionary spirit and brilliant struggle achievements of fallen revolutionary fighters who devoted their all to the party, the revolution, the fatherland, and the people during their arduous period of struggle and should be infinitely loyal to the cause of the leader [suryong] and the party, by following the model of these fallen revolutionary fighters. All party members and the people should also thoroughly embody communist morality and ethics in all fields of social life and should thus establish a communist moral ethos throughout the whole society.

The important task that we face today in accelerating the cause of socialism of *chuche* under the leadership of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il is to firmly deepen the economic position of socialism.

Today, we are building socialism amid the most difficult circumstances [chigum urinun kjang oryoun hwangyongsogeso sahoejuwirul konsorhago issomyo], and at today's arduous time, our party demands that all party members and the people staunchly struggle in the arduous march spirit which was highly displayed by our martyred revolutionaries and, thus, vigorously push ahead with the cause of socialist construction.

The arduous march spirit is a revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude for carrying out the revolution to the end with our own strength. It is also the optimistic spirit of bravely fighting difficulties without knowledge of defeatism or trepidation in whatever adversity and is the indomitable spirit of fighting with an indomitable fighting spirit amid all sorts of hardship.

All the working people, including the heroic working class, should rise up with extraordinary determination, bravely surmount all sorts of difficulties with the spirit of the arduous march created in the forests of Paektu, and, thus, effect changes in the implementation of the party's revolutionary economic strategy. [applause]

We should display the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude in all sectors and units and unreservedly mobilize all inner reserves by displaying the spirit displayed during the anti-Japanese armed struggle period and the mettle that was displayed in the period of the great Chollima upsurge during which the rehabilitation of the fatherland in a land of ashes was achieved through the struggle to increase production and the struggle to conserve. At the same time, we should thoroughly fulfill assigned economic tasks and thus, strengthen the might of the self-reliant national economy of socialism. Thus, we should further promote the standard of people's lives and brilliantly build our *chuche*-oriented country and fatherland into the great Comrade Kim Il-song's country which enjoys grandeur and prosperity. [applause]

Firmly solidifying the socialist military position is the responsible work assigned to our party and people today. Under the leadership of the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, we should continuously and thoroughly implement the party's self-defending military line to strengthen the political and military might of the People's Army in every way and to more firmly establish the all-state and all-people defense system throughout the country.

The People's Army should continuously and vigorously push ahead with the cause of modeling the entire Army after the *chuche* idea, should prepare all officers and men to become the guns and bombs resolutely defending the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, and should establish the military leadership system and military discipline in which the entire Army absolutely follows the supreme commander's order and unconditionally implements it.

Along with this, we should strengthen the lecture on military regulations in the People's Army and should lead the Army to live according to the demands of the military regulations. In this way, we should see to it that the Army more thoroughly establishes its appearance as a regular army, that the whole society attaches importance to military affairs, and that the traditional laudable custom of unity between the army and the people is brought into fuller bloom.

In this new year, the United States, in collusion with the South Korean puppet clique, is now perpetrating various dangerous military adventures in an unprecedentedly vicious manner in the areas surrounding the Korean peninsula. At the same time, in the international arena, the United States, in collusion with some countries, is bent on maneuvers to isolate, weaken, and stifle our Republic militarily, economically, and technologically.

This situation demands that we maintain a high vigilance and full combat readiness more than ever. If the enemy attempts to crush [apsal] us by force, then our people and our People's Army, which regards the country's sovereignty and national dignity as their life, will take a proper and resolute measure and will achieve victory, defending our socialist fatherland and our party's cause to the end. [applause]

Functionaries are the commanding members of the revolution who have adhered to the steering wheel of socialist construction and are the core backbone of our party. With the indomitable struggle spirit, by standing in the forefront of the advancing ranks, all the functionaries must devote everything to realizing the great general's plan and intention, and must become Kim Chaek-type commanding members who know how



to uphold the leader [yongdoja] with practical results in works, rather than by words.

Our party's expectation toward youth, who are the successor of the revolution and the main force of socialist construction, is great. The respected and beloved [kyongachanun] General Kim Chong-il handed the torch light of the revolution over to youth. They must always deeply bear in their hearts the honorary duty of being the next generation of the revolution who have accepted and embraced the sacred banner of the Kim Il-song Socialist Youth League in which the fatherly leader's [suryong] distinguished portrait is upheld, and must firmly prepare to become 5 million guns and bombs and reserve combat units of the comrade supreme commander who completes the chuche revolutionary cause to the end generation after generation by loyally upholding the great general's ideology and leadership under any adverse situation. [applause]

All the party members and people must highly uphold the banner of the three principles for the fatherland's reunification and the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation as indicated by the great leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song when he was alive; achieve the cause of the fatherland's reunification ahead of schedule through the whole nation's united strength; and actively struggle by strengthening solidarity with the international revolutionary forces to build a free, peaceful, and friendly new world, which is free from all kinds of domination and subjugation.

Today, the advance road of our revolution is the foundation of faith and symbol of single-hearted unity to carry out the revolution to the end by following the great leader [yongdoja], and the sacred red flag, the banner of victory and glory, is fluttering vigorously.

According to the leadership of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, our party and people live and struggle under the idea of the red flag in association with the whole life of the great leader [suryong], and will accomplish the chuche socialist cause to the end by continuing to highly uphold the red flag of our revolution which has always been recorded with victories. [applause]

Let us all firmly unite around the party Central Committee headed by Comrade Kim Chong-il; adhere to and further elucidate socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses; and vigorously fight to complete the chuche socialist cause to the end. [applause]

We truly hope for the fatherland's reunification and our people's eternal happiness; for our party's strength and development and ultimate victory in the chuche revolutionary cause; and for the long life of Comrade

Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and our people. [applause]

Long live Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and our people! [applause]

#### **DPRK: Foreign Officials Send Greetings to Kim Chong-il**

*SK1502062296 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
0258 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[All names of party leaders as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from President of the Russian Federation B. Yeltsin, President of the Republic of Guinea Lansana Conte and Amir of State of Kuwait Jaber al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah on the occasion of his birthday.

Messages of greetings came to Comrade Kim Chong-il also from secretary general of the Pakistan Muslim League Iqbal Ahmed Khan, general secretary of the Togolese People's Rally Dama Dramani, chairman of the Communist Community Party of Angola Baptista Andre Jose Simao, Chairman of the National Committee of the Mexican Democrat Party Baltasar Ignacio Balades Montoya, General Secretary of the Party for Unity and Progress of Guinea Abou Bacar Sompore and Chairman of the Central Committee of the African Independent Party of Senegal Majhemouth Diop on the same occasion.

The messages extend warmest congratulations to Comrade Kim Chong-il on the occasion of his birthday and wish him a long life in good health.

They express the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between their countries and Korea, and their parties and the Workers' Party of Korea will continue to strengthen and develop.

#### **DPRK: Kim Chong-il Continues To Receive Gifts**

*SK1502114196 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
1127 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was presented with 12 green turtles by General Farooq Feroz Khan [name as received], who is chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Pakistan.

He asked a Korean military delegation, on a visit to Pakistan, to convey his gifts to Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, and said that he arranged the gifts with boundless reverence



and best wishes for him, who has further developed the friendly relations between Korea and Pakistan.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also received a present of 3 rare tortoises from Kim Tae-ho, a Korean resident in China, and a rare pet dog from Yi Kum-sun, a Korean resident in the United States.

The tortoises sent by Kim Tae-ho are 4 or 5 kilograms each on an average.

The tortoise which lives in the basin of the River Yangtze, China, is a symbol of longevity.

#### **DPRK Leaders Attend Meeting Marking Kim's Birthday**

*SK1602013996 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean  
2100 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A national meeting to celebrate the 54th birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people, was splendidly held at the 25 April Hall of Culture on 15 February. [passage omitted]

Comrades Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, members of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and vice presidents; Vice President Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of Korea Social Democratic Party Central Committee; Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and minister of People's Armed Forces; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and Vice Premier of the Administration Council; Comrades Kye Ung-tae and Chon Pyong-ho, members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretaries of the party Central Committee; Comrade Kim Chol-man, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Choe Yong-nim, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and Vice Premier of the Administration Council; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Comrade Yi Ul-sol, marshal of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; Comrades Cho Myong-nok, Kim Yong-chun, Kim Kwang-chin, Paek Hak-nim; Yi Ha-il and Kim Ik-hyon, KPA vice marshals; Comrades Kim Ki-nam, Kim Kuk-tae, Hwang Chang-yop, Kim Chung-nin and Kim Yong-sun, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Comrades Kim Pok-sin, Kim Yun-hyok and Chang Chol, vice premiers of the Administration Coun-

cil; Comrade Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the Economic Policy Commission of the Central People's Committee [CPC]; Comrade Chon Mun-sop, chairman of the CPC State Inspection Commission; Mrs. Yu Mi-yong, chairman of Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee; responsible functionaries of the party and government; anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; KPA generals; heroes, and persons of merit, came to the rostrum. [passage omitted]

#### **DPRK Military's 'Festive Evening' Marks Kim's Birthday**

*SK1602042196 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
0404 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 16 (KCNA) — The Ministry of the People's Armed Forces held a festive evening here on Feb. 15 on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, respected supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA].

Servicemen extended highest glory and warmest congratulations to Comrade Kim Chong-il on his 54th birthday by dancing to the tune of "Congratulations to February holiday," "Glory to the dear leader" and "Song of wishes."

They hardened their determination to defend the revolutionary headquarters with their lives, dancing in militant spirit to the tune of songs "Let's defend socialism" and "Let's support our supreme commander with arms."

During the festive evening they shouted "Let's fight for the respected supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il at the risk of our lives!" and other slogans.

Present at the festive evening were vice marshals of the Korean People's Army Cho Myong-nok, director of the general political department of the KPA; Kim Yong-chun, chief of the general staff of the KPA; Kim Kwang-chin, first vice-minister of the People's Armed Forces; and others.

#### **DPRK Flood Victims' 'Gratitude' Toward Kim Chong-il Noted**

*SK1602030796 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean  
2200 GMT 14 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The hearts of all of the people throughout the country, who are to greet the festive day of February, are fervently seething with infinite reverence and gratitude toward the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

In particular, the minds of the residents in the Sinuiju area and in some other areas in North Hwanghae



Province, who suffered from the unprecedented flood damage last summer, are running to Pyongyang, the capital of the revolution, where the respected and beloved general is.

At the time, the flood damage left the residents with only the clothes they were wearing. However, through the reality in which they have come to significantly greet 16 February, the greatest national holiday and the common felicitous day of mankind, in the new houses where portraits of the fatherly leader [suryong] and the respected and beloved general are respectfully upheld, they are more fervently feeling the happiness of blessing with the leader [suryong pok] and the genuine superiority of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's benevolent politics.

It was last August. Receiving the report that floods had taken place in some districts, the respected and beloved general rescued all the people in the flood-stricken areas without leaving even one victim by mobilizing the Army, Navy, and Air Force units of the Korean People's Army. Then, the respected and beloved general not only sent precious gifts of love to them, but also established all possible state measures in order to stabilize their living at the earliest possible date.

As a result, thousands of dwelling houses, schools, hospitals, nurseries, public buildings, roads, embankments, and farmland have been rehabilitated or newly built.

Yesterday [14 February], children in the flood-stricken areas, as well as children throughout the country, received the gifts of love sent by the respected and beloved general. Some 10 mothers in the Sinuiju area, who gave birth to beloved babies at the grim time of the flood damage, shed the tears of emotion for receiving the gifts.

Looking at such a spectacle an old man named Choe Se-yong, 80, who resides in Sangdan-ri said in an excited tone: The proverb which says "there is a way out of every situation, however bad" is the proverb applied precisely to our general's benevolent character. As long as the respected and beloved general, who is identical to the leader [suryongnim] is with us, we will have neither disaster nor misfortune but will have a bright future. Even if the world changed a hundred times, we will uphold the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il forever as the great sun of our destiny.

This is not merely the feeling of this old man. This is also the unanimous feelings of all the working people, young students, and school children in the flood-stricken areas, including young people in the (Majon) cooperative farm in Sinuiju city and teachers

and students at the (Kanghan) senior middle school in Unpa County.

This is why, greeting the felicitous festive day of February, the residents in the flood-stricken areas are sending a letter expressing infinite gratitude and wishing longevity to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il while burning with the firm determination to devote their all on the road of upholding the respected and beloved general's leadership with loyalty and filial piety.

#### **DPRK WPK Banquet Celebrates Kim Chong-il Birthday**

*SK1602085596 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean  
0300 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[Non-Korean names as transliterated]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the evening of 15 February, on the occasion of the 54th birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] of our party and people, the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee hosted a banquet at Mongnangwan.

Attending the banquet were various delegations and foreign guests visiting our country, including the delegations of the Nepal Communist Party United Marxism-Leninism led by Madhav Kumar Nepal, general secretary of the party's Central Committee; the Ukrainian Communist Party led by Simonenko, first secretary of the party Central Committee; the People's Party of Cambodia led by Ngon Nhel, member of the Standing Commission of the Central Committee; the Righteous Force Party of Thailand led by Krasae Chanawongse, deputy leader of the party; the New Communist Party of Great Britain led by Eric Trevett, general secretary of the Central Committee; the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru led by Tani Baler Lopera, general secretary; the FUNCINPEC Party of Cambodia led by Om Rasady, director of the External Relations and Information Department of the party and chairman of the Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, and Information Committee of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia; the Bangladesh People's League led by Garib Newaz, president of the party; the National Assembly Party of Jordan led by Wadie al-Sayegh, deputy general secretary; the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil led by Sergio Rubens, deputy secretary general of the Central Committee; the Organization of the Struggle for Peace and Socialism of Italy led by Luigi di Cesare, member the party secretariat; the Communist Party of the Russian Federation led by Pujinkiev, first secretary of the Krasnoyarsk municipal party committee; Ogami Kenichi, secretary general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea, and



his companion; delegations of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions led by Vice-Chairman Yang Xingfu; the Rural Workers Movement of Brazil led by General Secretary Joao Pedro Stedile; and a congratulatory delegation of the Mongolia-Korea Friendship Society led by O. Cherma.

Comrade Kye Ung-tae, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrades Hwang Chang-yop and Kim Chung-nin, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Hyon Chun-kuk, director of a department of the WPK Central Committee; Kim Yang-kon, Chi Chae-yong, Chin Yong-kol, and Choe Chin-su, vice directors of the party Central Committee; and other functionaries concerned also attended the banquet.

Comrade Kye Ung-tae spoke at the banquet, followed by Tani Baler Lopera, general secretary of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru; Krasae Chanawongse, deputy leader of the Righteous Force Party of Thailand; and Eric Trevett, general secretary of the New Communist Party of Great Britain Central Committee. The attendees drank a toast to the longevity of Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] of our party and people, on his birthday. Artists in Pyongyang staged a performance at the banquet.

**DPRK: Kim Chong-il Receives Gift From Brazilian Party**

*SK1502131196 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
1134 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the Central Committee [C.C.] of the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil on the occasion of his birthday.

The gift was handed to Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, by Sergio Rubens [spelling of name as received], deputy secretary general of the C.C., the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil, on a visit to Korea.

**DPRK: Kim Chong-il Receives Gift From Cambodian Party**

*SK1502130996 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
1133 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chair-

man of the FUNCINPEC Party and first prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on his birthday.

It was handed to an official concerned by Omrasady [spelling of name as received], director of the External Relations and Information Department of the party and chairman of the Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Information Committee of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on a visit to Korea.

**DPRK: Kim Chong-il Receives Gift From Ukraine Party**

*SK1502130696 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
1131 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party on a visit to Korea on his birthday.

The gift was handed to Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, by First Secretary P.N. Simonenko [spelling of name as received].

**DPRK: Kim Chong-il Receives Gifts From Diplomatic Envoys**

*SK1502130496 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
1201 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received floral baskets, gifts and congratulatory letters from foreign diplomatic envoys and embassies in Pyongyang on his birthday.

They were handed to an official concerned by diplomatic envoys of China, Cambodia, Iran, Indonesia, Bulgaria, India, Yemen, Ethiopia, Mongolia, Russia, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Nigeria, Vietnam, Algeria, Palestine, Cuba, Poland, Hungary, Syria, Libya, Sweden and Romania, the representative of the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] and the acting representative of the German interests section.

He also received floral baskets, gifts and congratulatory letters from military attaches of Peruvian, Egyptian and Iranian Embassies in Pyongyang.

**DPRK: Kim Chong-il Receives Gift From Jordanian Delegates**

*SK1502121396 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
1130 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il



received a gift from the National Assembly Party of Jordan on his birthday.

It was handed to Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, by Wadie A. 'al-Sayegh [spelling of name as received], deputy general secretary of the National Assembly Party of Jordan, on a visit to Korea.

**DPRK: Kim Chong-il Receives Gift From Cambodian Party**

*SK1502121196 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
1129 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[Spelling of non-Korean names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from Prince Chea Sim, chairman of the Central Committee of the People's Party of Cambodia, on his birthday.

The gift was handed to Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, by Ngon Nhel, member of the Standing Commission of the Central Committee of the People's Party of Cambodia, on a visit to Korea.

**DPRK: Kim Chong-il Receives Floral Baskets From Japan**

*SK1502114396 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
1127 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received floral baskets from the teachers' union in Chiba Prefecture, Japan, and its affiliated organisations and Japanese public figures on his birthday.

**DPRK: Number of Visitors to Mt Paektu Secret Camp Noted**

*SK1502095196 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
0859 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — An endless stream of people visit the old home of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in the Mt. Paektu secret camp on the threshold of the significant February holiday.

Visitors to the old home number more than 2.1 million since the opening of the camp.

The Mt. Paektu secret camp is a holy place where Comrade Kim Chong-il was born on February 16, 1942, as the "Paektu bright star" amid the blessing of all people and cultivated his great intention for the

revolution, hearing gun reports during the anti-Japanese struggle.

The great leader President Kim Il-song said that Mt. Paektu is Kim Il-song's and, at the same time, Kim Chong-il's.

Preserved in the simple log cabin are a quilt, a low desk, a "Korean map jigsaw puzzle", a pair of field-glasses, a wooden pistol and other relics.

A monument bearing the poem of praise written by President Kim Il-song reflecting the unanimous feelings of the Korean people on the occasion of the 50th birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il is erected at the entrance of the old home, and Chong-il peak 1,797.81 metres above sea level rises up beside it.

The relative height from the ground of the old home to the summit of Chong-il peak is 216.42 metres.

After visiting the old home, 'Ali Asghari Ghasemi [spelling of name as received], military attache of the Iranian Embassy here, said that Comrade Kim Chong-il has the intelligence shining in the spirit of Mt. Paektu, brilliant flexible tactics, the matchless grit fearless of any formidable enemy, and the determination of a matchless general.

Kenichi Ogami, a laureate of the "International Kim Il-song Prize" and secretary general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea, stressed that one who wants to know the reality of Korea should come to the old home.

**DPRK: Kim Chong-il Receives Gift From PRC Residents in DPRK**

*SK1502130096 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
1153 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the Central Committee of the Association of Chinese Residents in Korea on his birthday.

It was handed to an official concerned by Fan Yunfeng, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the association.

**DPRK: Kim Chong-il Sends Educational Aid to Koreans in Japan**

*SK1502130296 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
1136 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il



sent 106,600,000 yen in Japanese currency as educational aid funds and stipend for the Democratic National Education of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan.

The educational aid funds and stipend sent by the great leaders President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il so far the Korean children in Japan amount to 42,601,032,433 yen in Japanese currency in the 133 installments.

**DPRK: Chongnyon Sends Birthday Greetings to Kim Chong-il**

*SK1602043496 Pyongyang KCNA in English*  
*0359 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 16 (KCNA) — A congratulatory message was sent to the great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il by the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) today, his 54th birthday.

The message says the respected general Kim Chong-il is the great leader of the century who triumphantly guides the revolution and construction and a peerless great man and tender-hearted father who has energetically conducted revolutionary activities with matchless brilliant ideas, theories and infinite love for the people.

As our people have you as their great leader, the chuche idea founded by the great leader generalissimo Kim Il-song is shining as the guiding idea of the present era, the Workers' Party of Korea has strengthened and developed into a powerful revolutionary party of chuche type and our homeland has demonstrated to the whole world its might as an unconquerable fortress of socialism, the message says, and continues:

Last year you respected general, always remembering Chongnyon and Korean residents in Japan, looked after and led them with your great idea, leadership and paternal love to become a model vanguard of the overseas compatriots' movement of the world.

There are no more happy and honourable overseas compatriots in the world than us Korean residents in Japan who enjoy worthwhile life blessed with the leaders generation after generation in the road of patriotism under the leadership of you general Kim Chong-il.

We will firmly build up Chongnyon into a patriotic organization of the fatherly leader generalissimo Kim Il-song and an overseas compatriots' organization boundlessly loyal to you respected general for all ages by carrying through your historical autographic letter "On developing the movement of Koreans in Japan onto a new higher stage".

The message sincerely wishes Marshal Kim Chong-il a long life in good health.

**DPRK: NDFSK Sends Kim Chong-il Birthday Message**

*SK1602043296 Pyongyang KCNA in English*  
*0354 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 16 (KCNA) — A congratulatory message was sent to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il by the Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK) today, his birthday.

The message says February 16 is the day of a great event when the Korean nation and humankind greeted the everlasting sun of leadership and the day of a great fortune when the eternal prosperity of Korea, the homeland of chuche, was guaranteed definitely.

Since you Comrade Kim Chong-il, with perfect literary and military accomplishments, the strongest sense of loyalty and filial duty and distinguished intelligence and strategy, began revolutionary activities in your early years, you have remained faithful to the leader and his cause, performing imperishable feats for the socialist cause of chuche and the human cause of independence, it says.

It further says:

You respected general built the Kumsusan Memorial Palace in a sublime way as the supreme temple of chuche to preserve the great Comrade Kim Il-song in state. That was a signal event in which the immortality of the leader was ensured for the first time in human history and was a great, undying feat.

Under your leadership, the Workers' Party of Korea has become the most authoritative and revolutionary party of Comrade Kim Il-song, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is prospering as Kim Il-song Korea most independent and powerful and our nation is shining as the Kim Il-song nation happiest and most proud in the world.

The vanguards and all other people of South Korea are very happy to have you as the leader of the nation. Their reverence for you has grown so strong that no violence and plot can check it.

You the great leader are our people's spiritual support, the symbol of faith and will and the banner of all the struggle and victory.

We will make the people from all walks of life planets of the Kim Chong-il solar system following you and unite them closely in the struggle in line with the



10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation, true to the fatherly leader Comrade Kim Il-song's behests for national reunification, thus providing favorable conditions for an independent reunification through confederation.

The message wholeheartedly wishes Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and a long life.

**DPRK: Trade, Women's Unions Pledge Loyalty to Kim Chong-il**

*SK1502100196 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
0902 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — A pledge of loyalty and filial piety to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was made by officials and members of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea and the Korean Democratic Women's Union on the occasion of his birthday.

Meetings for making the pledge took place in Pyongyang over February 13-14.

The participants hardened determination to uphold the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song for all ages with high degree of loyalty and staunchly go ahead for the completion of the revolutionary cause of chuche under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il with the red flag of the revolution held high.

The reporters and speakers called on all officials and members of the unions to thoroughly prepare themselves to be loyal subjects and filial sons and daughters who cherish an absolute worship for the respected General Kim Chong-il, who is identical to Comrade Kim Il-song in ideology, leadership and qualities, uphold him forever, and who are faithful to his leadership.

Letters of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted at the meetings.

**DPRK: Women, Youth Symposiums Held on Greatness of Kim Chong-il**

*SK1502095996 Pyongyang KCNA in English  
0854 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) — Symposiums on greatness of the respected leader Comrade Kim Chong-il have been held continuously on the occasion of his 54th birthday.

Symposiums of officials and members of the Korean Democratic Women's Union (KDWU) and youths and students took place here over February 13-14.

They dealt with the undying feats the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has performed for the times and

humankind by leading the Korean revolution for more than 30 years, perfectly acquiring the noble personalities and leadership ability befitting the leader of the working class.

The speakers said Comrade Kim Chong-il is the supreme incarnation of loyalty, who is adding lustre to the honour of socialist Korea and firmly defending the nation's dignity, with the fidelity to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song at the highest level.

They stressed that all youths, students and officials and members of the KDWU should be faithful to the leadership of the respected general Kim Chong-il with one mind of loyalty and filial piety, closely rallied around him and vigorously advance for the prosperity of the country and the motherland.

**South Korea**

**ROK Denies WALL STREET JOURNAL Editorial on Tokto Issue**

*SK1602113996 Seoul YONHAP in English  
1134 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 16 (YONHAP) — The Information Ministry decided Friday to use the right to refutation against THE WALL STREET JOURNAL of the United States for commenting on the Tokto issue in Japan's favor.

The ministry views that the journal's Friday editorial, while being critical to the way South Korea reacted on Japan's claim to the islet, failed to recognize Tokto being an inherent part of the Korean territory and was partially in favor of Japan by making it appear as if Tokto is subject to a territorial dispute between the two countries.

"We plan to send a refutation to the journal substantiating that Tokto is a Korean territory both historically and in the light of international law," a ministry official said.

The editorial entitled "reef madness" likened the Korea-Japan dispute over the islet to a fight between an infuriated minor and a mature giant.

**ROK Article on 'Important Change' in U.S. DPRK Policy**

*SK1602020696 (Internet) The CHUNGANG ILBO  
WWW in English 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States is considering the adoption of a policy that allows the dispatch of food, clothes, medicines and other articles necessary for rendering humanitarian aid to North Korea, without obtaining prior authorization from Washington.



This signifies an important change in America's North Korean policy as it means the virtual abolition of regulations on humanitarian aid to North Korea in the future.

**ROK Reportedly Changes 'Attitude' on Song Hye-rim**

*SK1602011096 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Feb 96 pp 1, 4*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The South Korean government has no intention of encouraging North Korean leader Kim Chong-il's former wife to come to Seoul, a South Korean government source said yesterday.

Instead, the source said, it will offer to help her seek political asylum in a Western country.

The South Korean offer to arrange Song's asylum in a Western country is an about-face from the initial response of the South Korean government, which had planned to bring her to Seoul if she consented.

President Kim Yong-sam has shown no special interest in the defection of Song Hye-rim, Kim Chong-il's former wife, who ran away from her villa in Geneva, Switzerland, with her older sister and two others, a Chongwadae [presidential offices] official said.

On the record, however, South Korean officials refused to confirm or deny an earlier news report that Song, 59, who is the mother of Kim Chong-il's oldest son, would come to Seoul sooner or later.

Instead, they said that the foremost concern of the South Korean government at the moment is the safety of Song and her company.

The change in attitude toward the North Korean defectors appears to have been triggered by concerns that a South Korean offer to grant them political asylum could worsen relations between Seoul and Pyongyang.

Their relations have remained chilled since their talks broke up on South Korea's additional rice aid to North Korea in September last year. North Korea asked for more rice after South Korea committed itself to providing 150,000 tons of rice in aid in June.

"It could wipe out the possibility of improving South and North Korean relations to bring Song to Seoul," a South Korean government source said. "It could push the two sides into an extreme confrontation."

If South Korea were to grant the North Korean defectors political asylum, the source said, North Korea would claim that the South Korean agents kidnapped them to Seoul and its agents could threaten the safety of South Korean diplomats, businessmen and their families in foreign countries.

A South Korean government source said Song may not wish to come to Seoul because her defection to South Korea could harm the future of her son in North Korea. The United States was mentioned as one of the countries of her choice.

Her older sister, Song Hye-rang, 61, however, may wish to come to South Korea where her son resides, the source said.

Yi Han-yong, 36, Song Hye-rang's son, who had defected to South Korea in 1982, talked with his mother in Moscow via telephone before she and her sister went to Switzerland late last month.

The North Korean defectors went into hiding from their Geneva villa earlier this month. South Korean officials refused to confirm which European country they fled to.

If Kim Chong-il's former wife wishes to seek political asylum in a Western country, it may be too early to exclude the possibility that she will eventually end up in South Korea.

One such example is a South Korean actress, who claimed she had been abducted to North Korea. After sneaking out of North Korea, she sought and was granted asylum in the United States in 1986. But she came back to South Korea after three years of life in the United States.

**ROK: Song Hye-rim Expresses Intention To Live in ROK**

*SK1602001096 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Feb 96 p 1*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The former mistress of de facto North Korean ruler Kim Chong-il, currently in hiding in a European country, clearly expressed her intention to live in South Korea because it is the only country that can guarantee her safety, a government source said yesterday.

So far, the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) has contacted Song Hye-rim, mother of Kim's eldest son, who is known to be staying in a European country with her sister Hye-rang, the sister's daughter Yi Nam-ok and her attendant, after their flight from their Russian home last month.

"Representatives from this agency are currently discussing with them about when to come to Seoul," the source said. However, it said that the Song sisters are still concerned about their safety in Seoul.

"While in Moscow, they long lived under surveillance by North Korean agents. Therefore, they did not immediately trust us when we contacted them," the source said.



Song's hesitation came from her concerns that South Korean authorities would not let her lead a normal life because of her close relationship with the top leader of North Korea.

They are also worried over the possibility that they will be stripped of their money, amounting to 1.2-1.3 million dollars, by South Korean authorities.

The agency, which has already dispatched a team of agents to Europe, has no option but to help them come to Seoul because the Song sisters are wanting to live in South Korea, the source said.

He refused to reveal where the Song sisters are currently staying and only confirmed that they left Switzerland for another European country.

The source said that the agency is not in a stage of negotiating with any foreign authorities to arrange their journey to Seoul.

"The agency has not yet completed all preparatory works related to their trip to Seoul. If the process is concluded, the agency plans to provide all conveniences for them to come to Seoul," the source said.

He stressed that the government will make efforts to abide by international practices to minimize frictions during the process.

#### **ROK: Kim Chong-il's Former Wife Reportedly in The Hague**

*SK1602041996 (Internet) The CHUNGANG ILBO WWW in English 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] North Korea's Dear Leader, Kim Chong-il's former wife, Song Hye-rim and her four companions who left Moscow for Switzerland are confirmed to be staying in Hague, the Netherlands.

They are currently consulting over the choice of the country for their defection. A diplomatic source in Washington stated on February 14 (local time) that "Song Hye-rim's sister Song Hye-rang wishes to come to South Korea while Hye-rim's daughter Yi Nam-ok and her companion will follow along with whatever the Song sisters decide.

The difference of opinion between the two sisters is delaying the final decision on defection."

#### **ROK Unification Vice Minister on Defection of Song Hye-rim**

*SK1602143196 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 16 Feb 96 p 2*

[Report by Kim Pyong-chan]

[FBIS Translated Text] While explaining the results of a meeting of the Coordination Committee for Unification and Security Policies held on 15 February, Song Yong-tae, vice minister of national unification, refused to comment further on the defection of Song Hye-rim and her companions, repeatedly stressing "the importance of the safety of Song Hye-rim and her companions."

Answering reporters' questions on their whereabouts, Vice Minister Song Tae-kwan used the expression "Song Hye-rang and her party" instead of "Song Hye-rim," thus implying that the sisters are divided over their final destination.

[Unidentified reporter] Is the government aware of the whereabouts of the sisters? If so, how will the government handle this?

[Song Yong-tae] We understand Song Hye-rang and her party have taken refuge in a third country. They did not let their whereabouts be known for they are afraid of being pursued by North Korean agents and the media. Since the foremost concern of the government at the moment is their safety, we ask for the media's cooperation and self-restraint.

[Unidentified reporter] When did the government first get in touch with them?

[Song] Further comments may endanger their safety.

[Unidentified reporter] There is a report they will come to the ROK within the week. Is that true?

[Song] (laughing) If you read between the lines, you will know.

[Unidentified reporter] Why is it that Song and her companions are reluctant to announce their whereabouts?

[Song] They do not want to reveal themselves.

[Unidentified reporter] Are they protected by the government of a third country?

[Song] Further comments will only be detrimental to their safety. Please wait and see.

[Unidentified reporter] Are they safe now?

[Song] As I said before, please understand me for not commenting any further.

[Unidentified reporter] What effects will Song's defection have on inter-Korean relations?



[Song] What is most important at this moment is their safety. I hope the press will not do anything that jeopardizes their safety.

[Unidentified reporter] Are they safe now?

[Song] If their whereabouts are made known, they will be in trouble.

[Unidentified reporter] Is it true Song is in France?

(Laughing, Vice Minister Song does not comment.)

[Unidentified reporter] What is the background behind using the expression "Song Hye-rang and her companion" while not mentioning Song Hye-rim?

(Vice Minister Song asked Kim Kyong-ung, director of the Public Information Department, what is the difference between "Song Hye-rang and Song Hye-rim," then answered "there is no difference.")

#### **ROK: DPRK Prime Minister's Failure To Attend Meeting 'Unusual'**

SK1602025496 Seoul YONHAP in English  
0243 GMT 16 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 16 (YONHAP) — North Korean Prime Minister Kang Song-san did not show up at the most important event to celebrate Kim Chong-il's birthday, which was held in Pyongyang Thursday.

Kang's failure to attend what the North Koreans call "the central reporting meeting" to celebrate their "dear" leader's 54th birthday was unusual, a South Korean Government official said.

The central reporting meeting was first held last year when Kim's birthday was designated as "the nation's greatest festival" on par with the birthday of his late father Kim Il-song.

Among those seen at the meeting held in the April 25 Cultural Hall at 4:00 PM were Vice Presidents Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol and Kim Pyong-sik, People's Armed Forces Minister Choe Kwang and many other party, government, and military leaders.

Premier Kang showed up at the meeting held last year.

Kang's recent public activities, as reported by North Korean media, included a visit to Mansusan Memorial Place, along with other party, government and military leaders, on new year's day and a telegram he sent to Chinese Premier Li Peng to express his condolences for the recent quake damage in Yunnan Province.

South Korean observers said Kang's failure to attend the Kim Chong-il's birthday celebration indicates that there is something unusual with him.

He has been rumored to have health problems, they added.

Noting the recent replacement of Hyon Chol-kyu as chief secretary of the Workers' Party Committee in South Hamgyong Province and the chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee, they guardedly suggested that Kang might have also been replaced.

#### **ROK Ruling Party 'Cautious' Over Developments in DPRK**

SK1602033796 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English  
16 Feb 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ruling New Korea Party maintains a cautious attitude on recent developments over North Korea.

NKP spokesman Son Hak-kyu yesterday refused to comment on a series of recent defection attempts by the mistress of North Korean de facto leader Kim Chong-il and a state security guard when asked by reporters.

"I don't think it is proper to officially react to the incidents at the moment because the situations are still underway, and the party believes the government is coping with them properly," Son said.

He added that the ruling party will make its official position after it has accurate information about what is going on there, and all the situations are over.

Other party officials called for the government to be prudent in working out countermeasures to the development, seeing a sign of a collapse of the North Korean regime in a series of recent incidents.

In the meantime, Cabinet members related to the North Korean affairs and foreign affairs got huddled together yesterday to discuss what course of action to take.

A host of issues were dealt with at the meeting presided over by Prime Minister Yi Su-song.

The contents of the meeting were not made available immediately, however.

#### **ROK: DPRK Official Questioned on Embassy 'Intruder'**

SK1602120196 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean  
16 Feb 96 p 3

[Ten-minute telephone interview with North Korean Foreign Ministry official "Kim" in Pyongyang, by New



York-based TONG-A ILBO correspondent Yi Kyu-min at 0500 GMT on 15 February; last paragraph is correspondent's note]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yi Kyu-min] I am calling from New York, in the United States. I have some questions regarding the attempt by a North Korean soldier to seek political asylum in Russia.

[Kim] This is the first that I have heard of this. What are you talking about?

[Yi] A North Korean soldier who rushed into the Russian Trade Representative's Office in Pyongyang is said to be dead. Is that true?

[Kim] That is a fabrication by some malevolent Russian rascals.

[Yi] The news was reported by a U.S. television broadcasting station....

[Kim] That is slanderous propaganda by U.S. scoundrels.

[Yi] Did he really commit suicide?

[Kim] Since it is a fabrication, there is no need to answer that question.

[Yi] Are Pyongyang's streets calm?

[Kim] (Avoiding a direct response) Nobody here knows what you are talking about. Where did you hear such a story? Let us not waste money and hang up.

[Yi] How does the Russian diplomatic complex in Pyongyang appear?

[Kim] It appears that you were duped into making this call. What are you saying happened at the diplomatic complex anyway?

[Yi] Were there any negotiations with the Russian Embassy before the North Korean soldier died?

[Kim] We hold negotiations with the Russian Embassy daily, but we have never held negotiations regarding someone's death. Let us conclude this conversation. (Voice of someone in the background urging him to hang up quickly)

[Yi] What is your name?

[Kim] My name is Kim.

[Yi] What is your job?

[Kim] I work for the Foreign Ministry. I am hanging up.

The official then hung up the phone unilaterally. Attempts were made to call him again immediately after the line was cut, but no one answered the phone.

### ROK Daily on Incident at Russian Mission in Pyongyang

SK1602034696 (Internet) The Digital CHOSUN ILBO WWW in English 2135 GMT 15 Feb 96

[Editorial: "Gunshots in North Korea's Inner"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The hope of Sergeant Cho Myong-kil of the North Korean National Security Defense Department to seek exile through the Russian trade mission in Pyongyang was shattered but his actions sent a further shock waves through the North administration. No one would have dreamt that such an incident could occur in such a place.

The matter is all the more surprising when one notes that the Russian trade mission is located very close to Kim Chong-il's office and residence along with the sites of other important organizations and agencies where there is 24 hour guard. Yet a member of the North's security agencies was prepared to lay his life on the line and attempt escape.

From this we can draw two inferences. First, there is a flaw in the nerve centre of North Korea's seemingly most iron-clad castle. Second, the North's army is not all that which it appears to be on the outside. The shock to the North may be measured even more strongly when one considers that the agency from which Cho came is that which manages the special servicemen who protect Kim Chong-il himself.

What gives us real cause for concern is the fact that Cho's attempts to flee the North comes shortly after the defections by North diplomats and staff through Zambia and the flight of Kim Chong-il's first wife, Song Hye-rim. Chaos plagues North's internal regime. The North administration may not fall like that of Romania's Ceausescu but it is clearly in an extraordinarily [as received] state of disarray.

It is possible that incidents such as this nature [as received] may occur in the future more frequently and in greater scope. Accordingly the government must prepare countermeasures to deal with the many possible outcomes that may come about as a result of future incidents. We need great wisdom to prepare for unexpected disturbances in the North or the destabilization of its political system so that we can minimize any on-flow of damage to us and with a view to ultimately achieving a peaceful democratic reunification of the peninsula.

We must express our regret towards Russia's role in this matter. Instead of merely stressing the fact that Cho had, as he entered the trade mission, shot three North Korean guards, Russia could taken a more compassionate approach and complied with international practice in relation to defection. Russian authorities effectively invited



North police into their premises and permitted them to execute Cho. This is not the sort of treatment those seeking exile expect to receive. The claim by Russia that Cho committed suicide is fatuous in circumstances where it cooperated actively with North special forces to carry out a 'strategy to neutralize an armed escaper.' Even Cho's chances of successfully seeking defection were slim, Russia should have at least taken measures to seek a peaceful resolution of the matter.

**ROK: PRC Refuses Photo Exhibition on Kim Chong-il's Birthday**

SK1602090796 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean  
16 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Beijing-based correspondent Kim Sok-u]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to an official in Beijing on 15 February, the PRC Government has disallowed the opening of a photo exhibition marking Kim Chong-il's birthday, which was slated to be held at the Language Institute in Beijing on 16 February under the sponsorship of the North Korean Embassy there.

The official said the PRC authorities have banned the opening of the photo exhibition marking Kim Chong-il's birthday on the grounds Beijing could not allow a large political gathering by foreigners. The North Korean Embassy protested through the Foreign Ministry.

However, the official also revealed that the PRC authorities have allowed the holding of a sports gathering between the officials of the North Korean Embassy and North Korean students studying there, regarding this as a goodwill meeting.

**ROK: PRC Denies Defection of WPK Central Committee Member**

SK1602084496 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean  
16 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Yonhap from Beijing]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 15 February, Shen Guofang, deputy director of the Information Department of the PRC Foreign Ministry, denied the KYODO News Agency report on the defection to the PRC of a member of the Central Committee of the North Korean Workers Party of Korea [WPK].

**ROK: DPRK Defector on DPRK Diplomat Wives' Problems**

SK1302224296 Seoul YONHAP in English  
0623 GMT 13 Feb 96

["Wives of N. Korean Diplomats Overseas Have a Hard Life" — YONHAP headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 13 (YONHAP) — Wives of North Korean diplomats stationed overseas have an extremely difficult time making ends meet due to the absurdly small salaries their husbands receive.

Living in Zambia with her husband and one son on a monthly salary of 250 U.S. dollars was so hard that Choe Su-pong, wife of third secretary at Pyongyang's Embassy in Lusaka Hyon Song-il, 37, said at a press conference Tuesday that they had to send their son back to the North six months after the assignment began.

Choe, Hyon and North Korean agent Cha Song-kun, who were all members of the North Korean Embassy staff in Lusaka, before defecting to the South last month, met the press at the press center in downtown Seoul.

Unless given special permission by Pyongyang's de facto leader Kim Chong-il, North Korean diplomats are only allowed to take one of their children with them, and must leave the rest at home, when they are given overseas assignments, according to Choe.

Daughter of Choe Hong-su, vice president of the Academy of Science, Choe Su-pong graduated from Kim Il-song University where she majored in Korean literature. In Lusaka she worked as a typist at the embassy.

To economize, she said, the wives of diplomats first restricted their shopping to once a week and then to once every two weeks. Shopping is the only chance the women had to go out of the mission compound.

Because new clothes were so expensive, the wives have to shop at second-hand stores. They are ashamed to visit these markets, so they wear tattered clothes and behave as if they are Chinese, Choe said.

Because the neighboring state Zimbabwe offers cheaper commodities, the wives often go to Zimbabwe to shop, she added.

**ROK Navy, Air Force Conduct Joint Exercise Near Tokto**

SK1602040496 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD  
in English 16 Feb 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Navy and Air Force yesterday conducted a joint exercise off Tokto islets in the East Sea, amid tensions between South Korea and Japan over Tokyo's claim to the islets.



The joint maneuver, designed to simulate an attack on a possible territorial intrusion, involved a destroyer, an anti-submarine helicopter, four Air Force F-16 fighters and a patrol boat of the Maritime Police.

The exercise, which was launched despite a storm alert, lasted for about two hours, a Defense Ministry spokesman said.

He said the exercise was a routinely planned one being held every three months.

The Defense Ministry Wednesday announced it would conduct the exercise today, shortly after a report that a Japanese patrol boat had been spotted near the islets.

The Japanese patrol boat was first sighted at around 3:30 p.m. 17 nautical miles east of the islets, prompting South Korean patrol boats to scramble and follow it.

It was seen near the islets for about 12 hours till 3 a.m. yesterday, when it sailed back to Japan, a Navy official said.

The Foreign Ministry called for the immediate withdrawal of the patrol boat. Japanese officials reportedly said the patrol boat had been dispatched to prevent any Japanese fishing boat from straying into Korean waters.

While the drill is small in scale, it came at a time of tension between Seoul and Tokyo over the islet. The row erupted last week when Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda said Tokto was part of Japan's territory.

Meanwhile, protest rallies and demonstrations against Ikeda's claim to Tokto continued for the sixth consecutive day yesterday in Seoul and other major cities across the nation.

Some 500 members of the Korea Veterans Association staged a protest rally in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul and delivered a protest letter to the embassy.

In a statement, they charged Ikeda's remarks were "violating the sovereignty of South Korea" and "as good as another invasion of the Korean Peninsula (by Japan)."

They said they renewed a resolution to defend the islets to the end, adding that Japan should "learn from history and keep in mind that Tokto is part of Korea's territory."

More than 100 Hongik University students also held a protest rally before the Japanese Embassy. They continued the protest at nearby Tapgol Park and distributed to pedestrians statements calling on the Japanese government to withdraw the claim to the islets.

#### **ROK Plans Weather Observation System on Tokto** *SK1602040296 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD* *in English 16 Feb 96 p 3*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An automatic weather observation system will be set up on Tokto around the end of next month, the Korea Meteorological Administration said yesterday.

The news came amid territorial disputes over the Tokto islets between Korea and Japan, but administration officials denied any relations between them and the establishment of the weather system.

"We began the project last year, and it has nothing to do with the current dispute over the islets," an administration spokesman said.

He also dismissed as "untrue" reports that the project had been pushed secretly at the request of the Foreign Ministry which was concerned about possible diplomatic frictions with Japan.

The unmanned station, called the "Marine Automatic Weather System," will be established 67 meters above sea level on one of the two Tokto islets.

#### **ROK: Japan Protests ROK 'Air-Sea Defense Exercise' Near Tokto**

*SK1602012596 Seoul YONHAP in English*  
*0114 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 (YONHAP) — Japan lodged a protest Thursday afternoon against the combined air-sea defense exercise South Korea conducted near the Tokto islets in the East Sea.

In a telephone call to South Korean Ambassador Kim Tae-chi, Administrative Vice Foreign Minister Sadayuki Hayashi complained that the exercise had made the situation more difficult for Japan despite that Kim and Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda had agreed just the other day that it is not desirable for the two countries to aggravate the dispute by getting on each other's nerves.

Japan's position on Tokto is firm and unswerving, and although the two countries have different views of the islets, hurting their relations as a whole because of these different views is not desirable, Hayashi added.

Kim replied that Korea's position on the islets is clear and explicit, and added that the exercise was a normal event planned long ago and was not intended to worsen the dispute.

Seoul does not want to see its relations with Tokyo worsen further, he stressed.



**ROK Editorial Views Blue House's Handling of Tokto Issue**

*SK1602005196 (Internet) The Digital CHOSUN ILBO WWW in English 1232 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[EDITORIAL: "The Blue House and Tokto"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is very distasteful for the Japanese to use a fatuous claim of sovereignty over Tokto Island to trigger a territorial dispute with us. We have every right to be angry at the suggestion by the highest-ranking Japanese officials to suggest that the "Takeshima" (Tokto) issue may be discussed mutually with us. Such a suggestion is nothing more than ingenuousness disguised cunningly as prudence. We object also to the one-sided reporting of the matter by the Japanese press. When geographically depicting Tokto, it conveniently omits any reference to our Ullungdo Island but clearly point outs the Japanese Island of Oki. In fact Ullungdo Island is situated 92 km from Tokto whereas Oki Island is 160 km remote. It is misleading to publish maps which suggest that Tokto Island is located geographically mid-way between the two countries in circumstances where it most certainly is not.

However, our Ministry of Foreign Affairs should have no trouble handling the Tokto Island dispute. Historically and geographically Tokto Island has always been ours and we have exercised continuous effective control and occupation over it. The Japanese demands that we discuss the matter in relation to the measurement of its exclusive economic zone with them but if we decline, surely only the Japanese stand to suffer.

Nevertheless the Blue House response to Japan's claims has been loud and angry. Kim Yong-sam not only canceled a meeting with a visitor from the Japanese ruling party but personally telephoned the Tokdo Island police garrison commander and implored him to act in the most patriotic way.

We must consider whether such outcry really constitutes the best strategy to attack the problem. President Kim's stance may be construed as the one that best sates the brooding public in the wake of the forthcoming general elections, but does not necessarily deserve to be regarded as issuing a meaningful warning to the Japanese.

It is natural to expect an explosive response to the misguided words and actions of Japan in relation to this matter by persons such as former Japanese comfort women and those who fought for independence while the country was under Japanese rule. However, the nation's highest official, by usurping the roles of those administrators who ought to be in charge of disposing

of the problem, is going too far by displaying anger and preparing to lead the country into a war of fisticuffs with Japan. Such an approach may ultimately make it more difficult to solve the problem.

The Tokto issue ought to be dealt with by the appropriate administrative organizations in co-operation with other relevant bodies. In doing so, the help of leaders of these organizations can be sought where problems arise giving us broad general scope for maneuvering. However, the highest ranking official has already entered the dispute leaving us with little room to advance and limited scope for retreat. From the viewpoint of foreign affairs and national security, it is vital that a co-ordinated, balanced approach is taken by the Blue House and the above mentioned administration bodies.

**ROK: Korean Air Initiates Taegu-Pusan-Osaka Service**

*SK1002073996 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 10 Feb 96 p 3*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Korean Air launched its international service linking Taegu with Osaka via Pusan at a ceremony held at Taegu Airport.

It is the first international regular flight departing from Taegu International Airport.

The airline schedules flights on the international route twice a week on Tuesday and Fridays, a company spokesman said.

He said flight KE750, which can accommodate 164 passengers, leaves Taegu at 9:40 a.m. and lands at Kansai International Airport at 12:10 p.m. via Pusan.

**ROK: Barclays Bank Closes Branch; 3 Foreign Banks Plan To Open**

*SK0902053596 Seoul YONHAP in English 0121 GMT 9 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 9 (YONHAP) — Barclays Bank of Britain will close its Seoul branch Tuesday for a complete withdrawal from South Korea after its 19-year business operations.

Business sources said Friday that Barclays has already finished disposing of its all assets here since it obtained approval from the office of bank supervision for the closure of its Seoul branch.

The bank's total assets has recently reached approximately 96 billion won (123 million U.S. dollars) since it first began to do business in Korea in September 1977. But the bank's head office in Britain decided to close



the Seoul branch to focus more on securities than banking. Barclays established a Seoul securities subsidiary in 1993.

Sources said that the British bank has also taken the necessary steps regarding its 24 employees and the settlement of all deposits and liabilities.

Barclays's Seoul branch is the first foreign bank to withdraw from Korea since Westpac Bank of Australia closed its branch here in 1994.

There are 71 branches and 25 representative offices of 77 foreign banks in Korea.

Meanwhile, the Office of Bank Supervision approved the establishment of Seoul branches of Nations Bank of the United States, Metro Bank of the Philippines and Leeman Brothers Bank of Germany.



## Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

### Malaysia

#### Malaysia: 'No Pressure' on Bosnian Refugees To Return Home

BK1602092996 Kuala Lumpur WATAN in Malay  
16 Feb 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuala Lumpur, Thursday — The Foreign Ministry's chief secretary, Tan Sri Ahmad Kamil Ja'afar, has said that Malaysia allows the 200 Bosnian refugees to decide when they will return to their homeland.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with Nudzeim Recica, the Bosnian minister for refugees and immigration [name and title as published], said: "We know that the situation in Bosnia is still bad despite the implementation of the Dayton peace agreement.

"We leave the issue of their return to their homeland to them. However, there is no pressure on them to leave this country."

Ahmad Kamil said he was informed by Recica that about 40 villages in their country were either destroyed or are still being occupied by the Serbs. As such, there was a need to make preparations to accommodate Bosnians who want to return home.

He said: "As such, there is no need for them to return immediately. Malaysia will definitely provide the necessary assistance for their return."

#### Malaysia: Defense Ministry Reviewing Spare Parts Supply Procedures

BK1602084296 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English  
16 Feb 96

[Report by Alex Sam — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lumut — The Defence Ministry is reviewing its spare parts supply procedures to ensure that the recent problems with the Hawk aircraft do not recur, minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said.

"We have to manufacture parts locally to make sure that the country does not depend solely on foreign sources.

"We can even export these parts eventually," he told reporters after breaking fast with navy personnel at the base here on Wednesday night.

He said one of the most important factors considered when purchasing aircraft was transfer of technology in the manufacturing of components.

Syed Hamid said because of the spare parts problem, the RMAF [Royal Malaysian Air Force] had been unable

to meet its target in training pilots to fly the more sophisticated fighters.

He said he would meet senior officials of British Aerospace to overcome the problem of irregular supply of spares and components for the aircraft.

"The government is unhappy over the after-sale support for the fighter aircraft," he said.

Syed Hamid said there was no need for the ministry to set up a board of inquiry and assured that the matter would be rectified.

"The whole sale and purchase agreement of the aircraft will be studied again to rectify the problem.

"I want the problem resolved soon. Even after the one-year warranty period, the company should continue to provide efficient after-sale support," he said.

#### Malaysia: Opposition Party Willing To Join Ruling National Front

BK1602091696 Kuala Lumpur WATAN in Malay  
15 Feb 96 p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Wednesday — The Malay party Spirit of 46 [S 46] is willing to become a Barisan Nasional [National Front] component and cooperate with UMNO [United Malays National Organization] to further consolidate the Malay community provided it is not abolished.

However, Ahmad Baharuddin, secretary to the S 46 Jasin Division, said any decision would lie with Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, its president.

He believed that other party members would accept and abide by such a decision.

Commenting on recent remarks by the Kelantan UMNO information chief, Datuk Annuar Musa, who rejected a second Malay party within the BN, Ahmad said political and ideological bickerings should end if the Malays wanted to further enhance their unity.

According to him, the S 46 is a party which stresses cooperation.

He also believed that should the issue of Malay solidarity become an important issue among Malays, then not only the S 46 but PAS [Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party] would also want to become a BN component. [passage omitted on Hamim and Berjas parties being BN components]



**Malaysia: Islamic Center Opened in Seremban**

96SE0070A Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN  
in Malay 15 Dec 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Seremban—The construction of the impressively beautiful Islamic Revival Center at Paroi in Seremban symbolizes the rapid growth of Islam in this state, consistent with Islam's status as the country's official religion.

The Revival Center was built on the concept of comprehensiveness, which means that all activities in life should be based on Islam.

The Revival Center is not merely beautiful to observe but also has an important effect on revivalist activities in the state.

The construction of the Revival Center is a part of the state government's efforts to spread the Divine message of Islam systematically and methodically.

Revivalist activities can be conducted in an orderly way because the center provides suitable equipment for a variety of activities, such as seminars and lectures.

Among the facilities at the center are a big auditorium accommodating up to 1,000 people, a lecture hall for 80 people, and a dormitory that will enable the offering of courses for a longer period.

When the initial phase of the complex is completed, the Revivalist Division of the Negeri Sembilan State Religious Affairs Department (JAINS), headed by Zakaria Hitam, will move to the complex.

When Chief Minister Tan Sri Mohd. Isa Abdul Samad handed over the complex to Director of JAINS Datuk Mohamed Hussain, he said the state government will expand the Revivalist Division as needs require.

The center did not need to wait long to begin operations.

Prior to the inauguration ceremony, the Revivalist Course for Industry was held there for factory employees in the state.

Besides providing courses, the center will offer related activities, including marriage courses, seminars on the family, and meetings such as for recitation and memorization of the Koran.

Activities in the form of appropriate forums will also be held at the Revival Center. Previously, such things had to be held at halls like the Seremban City Auditorium (MPS).

The Revivalist Division also has plans to produce more high-caliber revivalists, who not only will have a knowledge of Islam but will also be knowledgeable in psychology and computers.

The state government is also giving attention to Islamic education as a response to the wishes of parents to have their children study in religious schools.

Each year, about 1,600 requests are received for religious education in six schools, namely the Zaaba Middle School (SM) (Kuala Pilah), the Datuk Abdullah Astana Raja SM (Rembau), the Sikamat Street SN [expansion unknown] (Seremban), the Datuk Mansor SM (Bahau), the Datuk Undang Musa al-Haj (Jejebu), and the Tampin SM.

Only about 600 students are accepted, however.

Two more religious schools are being opened, namely the Lui Barat SM (Jempol) and the Pasir Besar SM (Gemas).

These schools offer additional subjects, such as Arabic, to enable students to take Arabic examinations at the Lower Secondary Assessment (PMR) and Malaysian Certificate of Education (SPM) levels.

Because of growing interest among parents who want their children to study in religious schools, efforts are being made to expand religion courses in national middle schools.

This is because parents realize that graduation from religious schools affords promising opportunities for success in other fields, such as law and management.

The state government is also giving attention to religious education for young children through the offering of personal religion classes (KAFA).

KAFA are important, because if children are educated on a strong basis of religion, they will grow to be not only citizens with knowledge of the world but also people of character who avoid acts contrary to Islamic teaching.

Last year, 2.2 million ringgit were spent on 1,187 KAFA, which were attended by 31,950 students.

Because of the importance of KAFA, the state government is expected to add KAFA throughout the state as needs require.

For adults, there are also religious guidance classes and "takmir" classes at mosques and houses of worship.

So far, more than 50,000 Muslims have attended takmir classes at 263 mosques and 72 houses of worship. There were 1,134 classes, with 162 teachers.

The state government is clearly giving equal attention to all sectors.



Although Negeri Sembilan is known primarily as a newly industrialized state, emphasis on Islam has never been neglected.

**Malaysia: Mahathir Stresses Exports Under Seventh Malaysia Plan**

96SE0011A Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA  
in Malay 18 Dec 95 pp 1, 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Shah Alam, 17 Dec—Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said that export-oriented manufacturing will be one of the important principles of the Seventh Malaysia Plan (RMK-7), which is to begin next year.

The prime minister said the time has come to use this strategy to ensure that goods produced by domestic manufacturers do not concentrate on domestic markets alone.

This practice will also keep domestic manufacturers from depending on government protection of their products.

Careful study will also be made during RMK-7 to make sure domestic manufacturers are following strategies for the national rubber, tin, and palm oil industries and do not depend on local markets.

The prime minister cited the national automobile manufacturer, Proton Saga, as one of the sectors for which foreign market efforts must be intensified. Exports must not be merely a sideline, because demand is on the increase.

"The world, and not the domestic market alone, must be the market for our manufactured products. We must have an orientation to exports rather than to domestic markets alone. This is especially true of domestic manufacturers who always want government protection for their products.

"People see that Malaysian manufacturers are looking for the easy way. If they sit at home, they have a government to support, embrace, and cradle them," he said.

The prime minister said this to reporters today after making an official visit to an exhibition at the Sumur City Aerospace Adventure.

He was asked about the main principles and emphases in RMK-7. The prime minister will chair a meeting of the RMK-7 committee next week.

According to Dr. Mahathir, the emphasis of RMK-7 will be different from that of the RMK-6, which concentrated more on imports for domestic supplies.

He said domestic manufacturers must make models of the rubber and tin industries.

The country would probably not have rubber and palm oil industries if we made them to be import-substitution industries.

"In these sectors, since we planned from the beginning to export these commodities, why not do it in the manufacturing sector?" he asked.

When asked to what extent domestic manufacturers are too protected by the government, he said:

"I think their protection is not excessive, but they are protected. Proton is an example. I have read in the newspaper a report by Datuk Yahya Ahmad (President of HICOM [Heavy Industries Corporation of Malaysia]). I support his views, because we made Proton for the domestic market. We have exported only as a sideline, although everywhere I go people ask to be supplied with Proton cars.

"A country in Africa has advertisements for Proton cars, but as yet there are no agents (to sell them)," he said.

He said that because of the attitude of domestic manufacturers who concentrate only on domestic markets, the country is losing foreign exchange revenues.

He said this situation contributes to the current balance-of-trade deficit. For this reason, a new way of thinking needs to be created in the manufacturing industry.

Dr. Mahathir said that because of their expectation of government protection, domestic manufacturers are not capable of exporting their goods.

"Investors in Malaysia have always wanted government protection so that they can make export-substitution products. Thus, we get no revenues from exports.

"They can't produce, because they are not efficient. They are not competitive, because they always produce in small quantities, with the result that Malaysian industry concentrates more on domestic markets," he said.

On the other hand, Dr. Mahathir said, foreign manufacturers come to this country to use Malaysia as a center for producing goods for export, sometimes up to 100 percent of production.

He added that the government will ensure that there is a continuous program to develop the country during RMK-7.

With regard to the space sector, the prime minister said that the government will concentrate on research and development, such as in satellite communications technology.



He said the interest of the younger generation in the space sector is very encouraging and is a good sign for the country, because young people are the ones who will lead the way in that sector in the future.

Dr. Mahathir said that the government will study Singapore's interest in obtaining water supplies from Pahang and Terengganu.

He said talks with his counterpart, Goh Chok Tong, were held early this month.

### Singapore

#### Singapore: Suzhou Industrial Park Attracts Nine New Members

BK1502142196 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES  
in English 15 Feb 96 p 38

[Report by Douglas Wong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sino-Singaporean developers of the Suzhou Industrial Park have signed up significant new consortium members: nine Chinese state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

The SOEs joining last week include giants like oil and chemicals trader Sinochem and shipping group Cosco, and are the first national level SOEs to participate in the industrial park.

Their participation will help attract more foreign investors to the park, Suzhou Party Secretary and Jiangsu province Vice-Governor Yang Xiao Tang [name as published] said in Beijing according the SUZHOU RIBAO newspaper.

The park is being developed by China Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park Development (CSSD), which is 65-per cent held by a Singapore-led consortium and 35-per cent owned by a Chinese consortium.

So far, the Chinese consortium has comprised only 11 SOEs operating at municipal and provincial levels.

Just last month, the Singapore-led consortium was boosted with Singapore's Economic Development Board saying it would become its 22nd member.

According to the SUZHOU RIBAO, the other new members of the Chinese consortium are:

1. The Beijing Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Import Export Corporation;
2. Power company China Huaneng;
3. The China National Technical Import and Export Corporation;
4. China Great Wall Industry Corp;
5. China Energy Conservation Investment Company;

6. China Central Television; and

7. China Bank Trust and Consultancy Company.

The nine SOEs joined the Chinese consortium at a ceremony at Beijing's Great Hall of the People last Thursday, in the presence of Chinese Vice-Premier Li Lanqing, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Wu Yi and numerous other vice-ministers.

"Suzhou Industrial Park's development is a new model for three-tier cooperation (central, provincial and municipal) in our country and Sino-foreign development," Mr Yang was reported as saying.

The inclusion of the nine SOEs also symbolises the Chinese Government's commitment and sincerity to the project, and to setting up a modern enterprise system in the park, he added.

CSSD chief executive Chan Soo Sen told THE STRAITS TIMES in Suzhou last week that the new backing from both China's and Singapore's Central Governments shows that the project is gathering pace.

"It has been a long two years since we started up, but we have now established the most important aspect of any China project: trust and understanding between the partners," he said.

As an example, he cited the way CSSD was able to respond to news last year that China would scrap tariff exemption on capital imports.

"We confirmed with our Chinese partners that the change would not be retroactive and were thus able to use the potentially difficult news to encourage investors to speed up their investment commitments," he said.

In addition, Singapore, which has been leading the marketing of the park, had arranged for Mr Yang to visit Suzhou investors like semiconductor maker Advanced Micro Devices in America and specialty chemicals maker Sumitomo Bakelite in Japan to help in the investment promotion.

"By involving our Chinese partners more we are in a win-win situation and this is a result of the trust and mutual understanding we have developed," he said.

Mr Chan also said the Singapore-led consortium, Singapore-Suzhou Township Development (SSTD), had almost finalised the inclusion of another two members, one from Europe and the other from the United States.

SSTD comprises leading Singapore companies like Keppel, Sembawang, Wing Tai, CDL [expansion unknown], Temasek and KMP, the Singapore investment arm of Indonesia's Salim Group.



The only international members so far are South Korea's Samsung Group and Japanese conglomerates Mitsui and Mitsubishi.

The 70 sq km Suzhou Industrial Park will cost an estimated US\$20 billion to complete over 20 years, and will offer a world-class investment location with Singapore-style efficiency to target China's vast market.

### Cambodia

#### Cambodia: 'People's Struggle' Against U.S., UN Lauded

*BK1602081096 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[Unattributed commentary: "The Alliance, Boss of the Two Heads, is Bogged Down in the Quagmire Suffering Acute Agonies Everywhere; It Is Not Free"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What is the latest situation of the alliance, the boss of the two heads; is it more favorable, the same, or worse?

Its situation has deteriorated very seriously, causing it to be bogged down and suffer acute agonies everywhere, in every field and in all aspects.

We would like to cite some examples to emphasize the alliance's inextricable situation.

First example: In Bosnia, the former Yugoslavia, the NATO military pact has been unable to bully the people there at will despite the fact that it has tens of thousands of troops and high-tech war equipment. For the past month and more, dozens of NATO troops have been killed or wounded — a few of them have been killed everyday in mine explosions or by sniper attacks. The U.S. Administration is again beginning to count the number of U.S. troops killed or missing.

According to regional diplomats, the so-called peace plan that the Clinton administration forced the Bosnians to accept in November is now facing an acute crisis and heading toward total failure. If there had been no problem, Clinton would not have rushed to Bosnia in great panic, especially at a time when he needed to be in Washington to negotiate the federal budget crisis.

Hardly had Clinton returned home than Secretary of State Warren Christopher immediately went to Bosnia. This does not include Christopher's assistant, who has made many trips back and forth there. All of this is a clear evidence that they were in great panic.

Second example: In Central and Eastern Europe and in Russia, the people from all social strata have risen up against the Western powers for trying to kill their

national entity and prestige. The problem does not involve communism or ultra nationalism as they have claimed. But it is because the people in this region do not want them to manipulate everything at will.

According to news analysis in general, the situation in this region has now become a heavy burden to the U.S. Administration, politically, economically, financially, and in terms of security. There is no hope of them settling this problem. Recently, they were compelled to make a further spending of nearly \$10 billion, but it is uncertain whether they will be able to solve the problem with this sum. This is because in the past they spent billions of dollars but everything kept deteriorating — nothing was solved.

Third Example: In the Middle East, the insoluble basic problems have worsened. Hardly are the old problems resolved than new ones arise.

In the Persian Gulf, the U.S. Administration and its company have plundered (everything) at will. But they must now be more alert because the people in this region have now started to rise up against them to protect their national wealth and their culture and traditional lifestyle.

Fourth example: In Africa, including the northern, southern, western, eastern, and central parts, the situation has become even more tense. The old crises — thought to have been resolved — remain intact. Moreover, new crises in the political, security, economic, and financial fields have emerged. Why? It is because the people's livelihood has deteriorated. The people have been robbed of everything by the warmongering superpowers and old and new colonialists; they are dying due to shortages of food and water; and they are threatened by AIDS and all sorts of social diseases. Some of them have died in the war that the alliance has kindled and endlessly stimulated in line with its warmongering nature.

Fifth example: In Latin America, there are crises upon crises. None of the social, economic, and political crises have been resolved. These problems have become such a heavy burden that the U.S. Administration dare not let go.

Sixth example: In Asia and the Pacific, the situation has become even more tense. The China-Taiwan problem that they have ignited is blazing even more strongly. It is not that the U.S. Administration does not worry about this problem.

Seventh example: In the United States, it is not that there are no crises; there are more acute crises in all fields — political, social, economic, financial, and racial. The U.S. Administration receives money for its work only from time to time. What situation does this



problem emphasize? It emphasizes the fact that the feud has become even more complicated. Moreover, the Americans have increasingly opposed and rejected the power holders because they have never tried to solve the problems of daily living for the people. Instead, they have kept increasing taxes and exploiting the sweat and blood of the American people to violate and eliminate the right to self-determination of the people across the world.

Just take a look at Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Secretary of Defense William Perry, Vice President Al Gore, and even Clinton; despite their domestic problems, they have run around here and there to meddle in the affairs of other countries.

This is the situation facing the alliance, the boss of the two heads. What has caused this situation?

1. They have caused this situation themselves in line with their warmongering nature by going everywhere to destroy peace and the right of other people to self-determination, without heeding any international norms.

2. It is because the people have risen up to struggle even more decisively to prevent them from doing anything at will. For example, in Chechnya, a small state in the Caucasus region, the Russian troops have been unable to do anything against this state. Not only have they failed in their campaign, these Russian troops have been bogged down even more deeply in the quagmire there.

We have raised these examples simply to review the situation of the people's struggle. In Bosnia, former Yugoslavia, the United Nations sent over 40,000 troops to stay there for over 3 years, but they failed in their mission. The United Nations then suffered shameful defeats to the point that Akashi lost his fame and disappeared. Now the more than 60,000 NATO troops there are facing the same problem.

All of this clearly shows that the situation has become even more unfavorable for the alliance, causing it to be bogged down and suffer acute agonies everywhere. It also indicates that the struggle of the people of the world is bursting out in blazing sparks of fire. Nothing can stop it.

This is the difficult situation of the alliance. It is also the situation of the struggle by the people of the world against it.

The struggle being waged by our nation and people against the communist Vietnamese and the alliance, the old and new bosses of the two heads, to salvage our nation and race and defend our nation's entity and honor is within the framework of the struggle of the people of the world. We are neither alone nor isolated. The

experiences of history show that the aggressors of all categories can never defeat the resistance forces of the people of the world fighting for peace and the progress of mankind.

#### **Cambodia: Daily Questions Ranariddh Reaction on Border Violation**

*BK1502150496 Phnom Penh SAPORDARMEAN  
SATHEARANAKROAT in Cambodian 13 Feb 96  
pp 1, 4*

[Commentary: "Silence on The Border Issue After Prince Ranariddh's Immediate Reaction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] First Prime Minister Prince Ranariddh immediately and vociferously reacted against Vietnam's most arrogant and shameless violation of the Cambodia-Vietnam border recently. The prince was incensed and concerned over the country's territorial integrity. This is a good sign and it is most fortunate that Cambodians have a leader who is committed to the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Besides strong protests over radio and television, we have, however, not yet seen the prince take any step in settling the border problem with Vietnam. It is now very quiet. Has the prince cried foul only to make the people believe that he was furious with Vietnam for violating our border? He should not just growl and refuse to take any action, since our territorial integrity was trampled upon. Particularly, it is our people living along the border who are the victims. They do not want to hear just thunder without seeing rain. Or maybe it is the policy of the prince and his party to talk and talk without any follow up action?

Prince, we still remember the promises you made to the people before the elections. We have not forgotten your words. You said you would combat corruption, end the war, and demand for the return of lost territories. These promises seem to be gone with the wind. Or was the recent intrusion of the Vietnamese a stratagem to restore the ebbing popularity of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]?

Some politicians believe this incident broke out following the prince's visit to Vietnam. The prince reacted immediately, as if everything was premeditated. This is merely conjecture, as the prince reacted without following it up with a solution to assure the people. Above all, the prince is the first prime minister. The situation is not the same as the time of the border resistance, when everybody knew that FUNCINPEC was the tiniest party in the tripartite resistance movement. Moreover, do not forget that 1998 is drawing near. Although the Cambodian people are not the brightest, they would not let



themselves be fooled twice. Bringing this up does not mean that we are trying to find fault with FUNCINPEC. FUNCINPEC is also nationally minded as we have already pointed out. What it needs is some action. (Words should be followed by deeds). If they have action, the people will not regret having voted for it.

We also want to praise some FUNCINPEC ministers who before the elections had difficulty finding decent clothes to wear. They used to live under other people's roofs or shacked up with relatives. Now they compete with one another in building large homes, showing off rolls of dollars to the people, moving about in Mercedes-Benz and BMW cars, and dating young women to the bewilderment of all.

We do not envy you. You can do whatever you wish but don't let the people envy you, otherwise you will not get even a single seat in the next term.

**Cambodia: Hun Sen Renews Appeal for Khmer Rouge Return**

*BK1502113096 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian  
0500 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting on 12 February with thousands of families in Moha Russei commune, Kompong Speu Province, Samdech Hun Sen publicly appealed to the Cambodian compatriots who are currently staying with the Khmer Rouge, in particular all armed forces in the jungle, to rejoin the national community. The samdech said: On behalf of the Royal Government [RG] and the army co-commanders in chief, I would like to call on you again, the armed forces in the jungle, to come out and rejoin the people. Your struggle is nothing but real destruction of all social gains.

He added that the cold war and ideological conflicts have completely ended and a political solution has already been found in Cambodia. There is no more armed dispute now.

The samdech underlined that he would guarantee and preserve all the interests of those coming out of the jungle. He also asked the government military not to touch or damage the belongings of those leaving the jungle to join the national community. Authorities should, however, assist those coming out with their families and armed units.

After leaving the jungle, he added, you are free to do whatever you want. You can set up political parties or conduct various activities provided you do not use arms illegally.

Samdech Hun Sen called on them to come and compete through their political parties to restore and redevelop

the country. For instance, if a party builds a wooden school building, another should erect a concrete one, and if a party builds a gravel path, another should build a paved road. They should never use armed forces to destroy national gains. If the people are pleased with it, that party will be able to assume power. There is absolutely no need to wage an armed struggle to seize power.

Commenting on the political parties' use of democracy, the samdech said compatriots should know how to use the political parties as slaves so that they can extract benefits from them. You should not allow the parties to deceive you or use the people as their stepping-stone on the path to power. You should tell them that if you or your party are smart enough, you should show your talents by actually building roads, schools, hospitals, and pools for the people.

**Cambodia: Government's Ability To Capture Pailin Doubted**

*BK1602035996 Phnom Penh SAPORDARMEAN  
SEREIPHEAP THMEI in Cambodian 14 Feb 96  
pp 1, 3*

[Unattributed report: "Can They Capture Pailin in the Next 45 Days?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over 40 days have elapsed since the government troops started their first full-scale offensive against the rebels. After more than 40 days, the government troops have only been able to capture some small front-line posts from the rebels, such as Hills 25 and 36.

According to AFP, the government has sent over 12,000 troops to seize various important rebel bases, including Phnum Malai, Khla Ngoap, and the strategic-economic area of Pailin.

Pailin is a fertile area, which was once captured by government troops but recaptured by the Khmer Rouge rebels a month later. Government troops captured Pailin in 1994, but due to the military officers' greed, the soldiers who captured the area were demoralized. That was why the Khmer Rouge were able to recapture Pailin.

According to front-line reports, 56 government troops from the special forces were killed in recent clashes with the rebels in the northwestern part of Poipet in Banteay Meanchey Province. Again recently, 12 government troops from the special forces were killed, 22 others were wounded, and four tanks were damaged in clashes at Hill 36.

The Defense Ministry's military sources said that no tank was destroyed and that military casualties since



the start of the campaign have been only 22 killed and 57 wounded. But according to a reliable source, a high-ranking military officer in the front-line who asked not to be named, so far, nearly 300 government troops have been killed and no less than 200 others wounded — most of these troops were commando troops who had just completed training in Indonesia. Moreover, seven tanks were put out of commission. These are just the casualties on the battlefields in Banteay Meanchey and Battambang Provinces. The casualties in the battle at An Seh, which government troops recently captured, are not included. The Khmer Rouge suffered only minor losses because they have fewer forces and conducted only hit-and-run attacks.

According to another source, from a hospital in Battambang Province, a 200-bed hospital was packed with wounded soldiers — most of them were wounded by mine explosions. The hospital also sent another batch of wounded soldiers to Phnom Penh and cremated 22 dead soldiers.

According to observers, government forces are far superior to the Khmer Rouge; but for more than two months, government forces have been able to capture only small, front-line rebel positions. They are assessing whether government forces will be able to seize the important bases of the Khmer Rouge during next month or sometime later.

It is believed that in launching this dry-season offensive, government forces plan to seize control of the Khmer Rouge bases, especially Pailin. But it is still not known whether this plan will be successful or not, because some government troops have mutinied and deserted the battlefield due to a shortage of food and insufficient pay.

#### **Cambodia: Continuing Operations Urged To Wipe Out Khmer Rouge**

*BK1602123996 Phnom Penh KAOH SANTEPHEAP  
in Cambodian 15 Feb 96 pp 1, 4*

["Today's Comment" column by Thar Chakkreikhuoch: "Striking the Khmer Rouge While It Is Still Dry Season"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Khmer Rouge group and its supporters are all most barbaric people. They have never discarded their poisonous nature. It is impossible to beg them to understand the sufferings of the Cambodian people and mankind. They do not know how to listen to the decent language calling on them to return to the national community. Their language says they should act promptly in a cruel way. They are not different from bandits in the least. Only burning measures can restrain

them to some extent, otherwise they will continue to trouble and harass the people in remote areas.

In view of their past and current actions, we can see that the rebels have never felt pity for, nor sympathized with the people. All they have done is to stage sabotages, commit thievery, distribute leaflets, rob, and kill the people throughout the country indiscriminately and ceaselessly. If the Royal Government [RG] continues to make high-moral concessions to those barbarians, it will be rewarded with more obstacles that will cause obstruction to the national construction movement and hamper insecurity everywhere.

During the current dry season, the outlawed Khmer Rouge rebels are staging attacks, committing robbery, and planting mines to destroy national routes, the people's lives, and bridges one after the other. Their strategy is not that aggressive; however, if measures are not taken in a timely fashion to prevent it, the destruction will quickly become enormous. The rebels have forced the people in villages and communes to abide by their orders and have created more serious insecurity countrywide.

It is impossible to have a peaceful mind at all times. Security in society can only be maintained if we prepare ourselves to win and if we always remain vigilant; otherwise, the opportunists will eventually be able to perpetrate a major attempt to ruin us in the current dry season.

It is unwise for us to presume that the outlawed Khmer Rouge has been weakened while the networks of its elements are everywhere across the country. They are similar to contagious, virulent diseases. They are poised to ruin the well-being of the RG whenever they can, especially when the situation in the country fluctuates. The Khmer Rouge continues to nurture its poisonous nature; it is not different from oil slicks.

Although we have already destroyed major Khmer Rouge strongholds in the current dry-season offensive, we should not forget that the rebels still linger under our armpits. A newly formed political party has never attacked the rebels for their crimes. We have noted that the illegal party has allied itself with the Khmer Rouge and that they have well-defined separate missions — those in the jungle use arms as their tools, while their associates in the interior use newspapers, leaflets, and the sham they call democracy.

If both of us, they said, cannot attack and prevail over what we call the Vietnamese puppets, we will all go and sleep in France. Hey! Hey! Who ends up the loser and who ends afraid of his own shadow will be known during this dry season.



**Cambodia: Paper Criticizes Sihanouk, Recalls King's Past Promises**

**BK1502140996 Phnom Penh SAPORDARMEAN SATHEARANAKROAT in Cambodian 13 Feb 96 pp 1,4**

[Editorial: "The Man Who Betrays His Promises"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The man who went back on his promises won the 1993 elections thanks to the assistance and intervention of the United Nations, which desired that the Cambodians savor peace and see the end of the chronic war that had lasted for over 20 years. This shameless man betrayed the 23 October treaty stipulating that Cambodia be a country with liberal democracy, pluralism, human rights, and a democratically installed presidential system of government.

It seems that this man is bent on eternally bringing misery and suffering to the Cambodian people, for he has sought by using all tricks and means to impudently change and disfigure truth and to deprive the people of hope and faith.

The 23 October Paris agreement did not indicate that we should set up a half-communist, half-monarchic regime. Why are we Cambodians endlessly jinxed and cursed? Maybe this shameless man — who led the country into the open arms of the Khmer Rouge and caused millions of our people to be massacred by them — is not yet satiated. Maybe he still wants to continue subjugating those who have survived the Khmer Rouge massacre, turning the people into slaves serving both the father and the son and keeping them from ever discovering what is true democracy.

Everybody is aware of this obsolete trick. Please have some pity for the common people. Don't you know how miserable the people are nowadays? What happened to your promises that you would not accept the crown, that you would not become king, that so long as the country was liberated from the Vietnamese you would agree to follow liberal democracy and pluralism?

Outwardly, you look so pitiful. But your deceitful, venomous and shameless heart has engineered scheme upon scheme, sending the Cambodian ship of state reeling and rolling, lurching time and again on the verge of collapse. This is a trick of the villain working to scuttle democracy.

The policy of using a democrat to combat democracy, a Khmer Serei [noncommunist resistance fighter] to kill a fellow Khmer Serei should be buried. Such a trick can never help the politics of the Cambodian nation. They can only serve the ambitions of your great friend communist China and the Hanoi Vietnamese. Everybody loves his country. However, loving the

country and regarding it as one's personal turf is tantamount to destroying it for sure. Only the antiquated feudal regime would consider the country as belonging to its family, which is entirely opposite to the concept of democracy.

**Cambodia: Government Urged To Arrest Killer of Popular DJ**

**BK1602111196 Phnom Penh SAPORDARMEAN SEREIPHEAP THMEI in Cambodian 14 Feb 96 pp 1, 3**

[Unattributed commentary: "Even a Mere Radio DJ Was Shot Dead"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are numerous clear signs showing the decline of democracy in Cambodia. The power holders under the cloak of democracy are using all means to grill the opposition. Who can do anything to them, if there is clear evidence that they killed someone, that they are Vietnamese lackeys, that they are corrupt?

One of them has said: "I can shoot at, kill, arrest, or jail anyone at will, and reject any party as being unlawful. Everything is up to me. If I say that something is good, everyone must follow me; if I say that something is bad, everyone must agree with me. I have signed agreements allowing Vietnam to take Cambodian land, forced the people to serve the K-5 labor, sold out and destroyed forests, and sold out national property — everything is up to me. I will shoot and kill whoever dares to call me a traitor."

These are not merely nasty words, but they show the hooligan nature, and the past and present deeds of this former ruffian temple boy who is now in power.

To gain power, traitors would kill even their own grandfather, not to mention other people. They think only about their own power and do not care about people's happiness or national interests.

Ek Mongkol was a popular radio disc jockey. The people who listen to FM 90 radio loved to hear his nice voice. He was the best DJ of them all. The Cambodian people who hate the Vietnamese and cherish democracy loved him; but the Vietnamese lackeys and the communists hated him.

Ek Mongkol was the radio spokesman of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party. On the radio, he always talked about the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia, and the Vietnamese encroachment upon Cambodia's territorial integrity. That is why he was assassinated in a most cowardly and barbarous manner.



Ek Mongkol contributed much to Prince Ranariddh and the success of the FUNCINPEC Party in the elections. He was assassinated so the voice of this democrat from within Cambodia would be gagged. What does this assassination show to Prince Ranariddh who has resolutely pledged to forge the alliance as one man with the Cambodian People's Party?

We are not accusing any side of being responsible for this assassination, but we would like to appeal to the government authorities, led by Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen, to arrest and punish the criminal.

**Cambodia: Ministry Suspends  
SATHEARANAKROAT for Attacking King**

*BK1602130096 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI  
KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 16 Feb 96 pp 1, 2*

[Report by Saophoan]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Information Ministry consecutively issued three letters signed by Information Minister Ieng Muli on 12 February opposing the SATHEARANAKROAT newspaper, especially with Loem Ratana as editor in chief.

Loem Ratana said one of the minister's letters asked the co-interior ministers to confiscate the newspaper, but said he has not heeded the advice of the Information Ministry. The Information Ministry demanded the newspaper remove the Khmer Republic flag from its masthead and to stop writing articles that attack the king, who is the father of national reconciliation and national independence. Loem Ratana's ignorance of the advice shows that he has bullheadedly violated Article 41 concerning the media of the constitution. Concluding, Ieng Muli said: Therefore, according to Article 12 of the press law on national security and political stability, I ask their excellencies co-ministers to order the competent authorities to confiscate the newspaper and suspend its publication nationwide. Here, I enclose the newspaper's file.

In Ieng Muli's second letter, there is a three-point statement issued by the Information Ministry on suspending the publication of the SATHEARANAKROAT newspaper for 30 days beginning 12 February. The statement also stipulates that "after the suspension, the resumption of the publication is by the authority of a court of justice."

In his third letter from the same day, Ieng Muli asked Kau Bunhong, the government's lawyer, to forward the lawsuit against the newspaper to the prosecutor of Phnom Penh Municipal Court.

The fate of the SATHEARANAKROAT newspaper depends on the court's decision. As for the Information Ministry, it has already done its duty.

**Cambodia: 'Rifts' Among Cambodian Press Viewed**  
*BK1602061996 Bangkok THE NATION in English  
16 Feb 96 p A8*

[Report from Phnom Penh by Gary Way: "Rifts and Violence Tame Cambodia's Unruly Press"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As Cambodia's fledgling free press comes under increased pressure to toe the government line, internal and, at times, violent bickering between journalistic factions is threatening to destroy what remains of the country's independent media.

Since the 1993 UN-sponsored elections, the free press has born the brunt of a determined effort by the newly formed Cambodian government to muzzle the opposition media.

Dozens of newspapers have been closed and their editors jailed or fined over controversial articles critical of the government.

Three journalists have also been murdered since 1994, all after reporting on corruption within government ranks. The most recent attack was the day-light shooting and serious wounding of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] radio announcer, Ek Mongkol, on Feb 8. It is not yet known if the attack which was strongly condemned by First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, was politically motivated.

With several more papers currently facing or undergoing legal action, the trial of leading government critic Prince Sirivut, for allegedly plotting to assassinate second Prime Minister Hun Sen, is set to further test the opposition and independent media.

The trial, which has provoked wide speculation among diplomats and the foreign media about Hun Sen's intentions, is widely seen as an attempt by the Cambodian People's Party leader to consolidate his grip on power prior to the 1988 elections, including the removal of the opposition media.

At the front line of the battle is the Khmer Journalist Organization (KJA), and particularly it's president, Pin Samkhan, who has been issued with a subpoena.

The alleged assassination plot was first reported in an article published on Nov 11 by the Angkor Thmei (New Angkor) newspaper and written by former KJA secretary general, So Naro.



So Naro, who later admitted that "the prince may have been joking", was reprimanded by the organization which called the article unethical. He has since been engaged in an intense leadership struggle with Pin Samkhan.

Should Pin Samkhan be ousted as president, the KJA's independence would be weakened with CPP-linked and pro-government rivals taking over the top positions.

Pin Samkhan narrowly survived an initial challenge by one vote and the KJA has called for a second round of elections.

With government agencies renewing membership in an apparent effort to tilt the balance of power, many observers say Pin Samkhan is unlikely to survive as president, and predict the organization will adopt a more pro-government line.

The KJA, which is supported by the Asia Foundation, has in the past been severely criticized by Hun Sen because of Pin Samkhan's ardent defence of opposition papers.

A breakaway organization, the League of Cambodian Journalists (LJC), was formed with the support of Hun Sen shortly after an opinion survey conducted by the KJA early last year found that Sam Rangsi, now head of the Khmer National Party, was the most popular politician in Cambodia.

At the inauguration of the LJC headquarters in July last year, Hun Sen further criticized Pin Samkhan and asked, "in a situation where national reconciliation is proceeding smoothly are such polls deemed necessary?"

Though Hun Sen denied he instigated the forming of the LJC, he has strongly defended government donations and his role as a member of the organization.

The pro-CPP newspaper, Kaoh Samtepheap (Island of Peace), a member of the LJC and whose employee, Chum Kanal, is president of the organization, has strongly advocated violence against opposition newspapers.

This has resulted in several grenade attacks on the premises of opposition newspapers and a mob attack on the Serei Pheap Thmei, (New Liberty News), after Kaoh Santapeap pointed out criticism by the paper of the special Hun Sen Development Zone, located in Kandal Province.

The attack, criticized by the international media freedom watchdog, Reporters Sans Frontieres, which said in a written statement, "Reporters Without Frontiers firmly condemns the attack as well as the approval of Hun Sen and implicit encouragement of violence."

Hun Sen responded by saying, "If the newspaper did not criticize me and hurt the ideas of the people then these things would not happen".

Several days later, Kaoh Santhipheap, pointed out that the best way to silence the opposition press was to, "go directly to the production plant."

Phnom Penh printers fearing a repeat of mob violence, immediately halted publication of the seven opposition papers, effectively silencing them.

Several papers continue to print clandestinely from underground printing houses, or borrowed presses but none have resumed their previous levels of publication.

With internal infighting in the KJA and the opposition media without printing facilities and fearing more violence, the independent media, other than the English language papers is unlikely to survive.

Pin Samkhan, the embattled leader of the KJA, is hoping that the government will eventually [be] wise to the needs of the media, and reverse the trend, saying "We need some spirit of democracy to help develop the press."

Asked if a KJA-owned and operated printing press would solve the current crisis, he replied, "Yes, but with the divisions we don't have the opportunity to do that."

While admitting funding and a lack of professional training, compounded by the bitter infighting have seriously eroded the independent media, Pin Samkhan is also concerned about the recently approved Press Law which further stifles the press.

Singling out article 12, that states that "The press shall not publish [news] or information which affects national security and political stability," he said, "It's a very large area, it means we can not criticize the government or politicians."

NGOs and human rights workers have since expressed concern about the ill-defined references to "national security" and "political stability."

Though Cambodia is a signatory of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, that provides for "freedom of expression" the terms are left to interpretation by a judiciary lacking independence.

Under the article, persons responsible whether they be the author, editor or publisher could be subject to a 5-15 million riel (\$2-6,000) fine, plus a jail term.

In another development that bodes ill for the term "freedom of expression", the Ministry of Education has decreed that English teachers, both foreign and



nationals, may no longer use articles from the Bangkok press critical of the Government.

Including both private and government schools, the decree charged teachers of using negative political articles, to educate their students. The decree will be enforced by undercover agents sitting in on classes.

**Cambodia: Future Questions for Cambodia Viewed**  
*BK1602050996 Bangkok THE NATION in English*  
16 Feb 96 p A8

[Article by Marisa Chimprapha: "1998 Poses Tough Questions for Phnom Penh Leaders"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Political campaigning for the 1998 National Assembly election in Cambodia is expected to be heated and problematic since according to the constitution, the next government can only have one prime minister. The present government is led by two premiers.

The 1998 election will be the first conducted by the government and supervised by local officials. In 1993, the election was organized by the UN at a cost of nearly \$3 billion, the largest sum that the UN has spent on such an endeavour, with the assistance of hundreds of people from other countries.

Second Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Cambodia People's Party (CPP) has already announced to the public that his coalition government with FUNCINPEC [National United Front for An Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the first premier, will last at least until 2000.

Hun Sen did not say what he or Prince Ranariddh would do if either of them were to lose the premiership.

A high-ranking CPP official said recently that the post-election government could continue to have dual premiers since the constitution stipulates that such a situation is possible during the transition period.

"The constitution doesn't specify the duration of this transition period. The concept of having two prime ministers may still be necessary for maintaining peace and stability, although the CPP is very confident of its popularity and the public's support for it," the official told THE NATION.

During a party meeting in Sihanoukville last month, FUNCINPEC also expressed confidence that it would win the needed two-thirds majority in the National Assembly to be able to control the premiership.

How the Cambodian government will interpret the constitution, however, and whether it will continue

having dual premiers, is still uncertain. Cambodia's present government is, in fact, unique. The presence of two premiers after the 1993 election was due to a compromise forged between FUNCINPEC, which won in the election but was not ready to take the power and the CPP, which lost but not ready to hand over power.

There are signs that FUNCINPEC and the CPP are willing to work together again after the next election. For one thing, they will definitely win the bulk of seats in the 120-member National Assembly. For another, the other parties taking part are not expected to do well since they do not have the resources.

Hun Sen has successfully maintained his grip on the armed forces and bureaucracy, partly due to the weakness of FUNCINPEC, whose members are mostly Cambodians who grew up abroad.

As the leader who controlled the country for years before the 1993 election, Hun Sen has been able to place his supporters in key positions even at the district and commune levels. Although FUNCINPEC shares equal power with the CPP, it does not have a grass-roots level organization and its unity has been affected by internal conflicts.

Both parties, however, have agreed to share power in the district level and an agreement endorsed recently showed that they have divided 174 districts on an equal basis. The agreement stipulates that a FUNCINPEC-appointed district chief will have a deputy from the CPP and vice versa.

The CPP agreed to hand over half of its administrative power in the district level to the FUNCINPEC, observers said, because it is banking on the support of other lower officials, who were mostly appointees of the CPP.

FUNCINPEC has been criticized for its growing reliance on the CPP, which is due partly to the fact that it has a weak leadership.

Two of the party's leading members, Prince Norodom Sirivut and Sam Rangsi, who held important Cabinet portfolio's, were forced to step down because of their outspoken criticism of government policies. As such, Hun Sen has been criticized for trying to muzzle his political opponents.

Observers pointed out that while both had been critical of the corruption inside and outside the government, their absence has weakened FUNCINPEC.

A FUNCINPEC member was quoted as saying that during the Sihanoukville meeting, Prince Ranariddh was criticized for not effectively handling the case of Prince



Sirivut, King Norodom Sihanouk's half brother, who was forced to go into exile in France.

When Prince Sirivut was put under police custody in November last year, and subsequently charged for conspiracy, illegal possession of firearms and plotting to assassinate Hun Sen, who is said to have absolute control over the military. Prince Ranariddh did not do anything to protect his uncle.

Evidence purportedly supporting the charges was considered weak since it centred mainly on a taped conversation allegedly between the prince and another man. Moreover, an editor of a newspaper that published the alleged assassination plot later said the prince may not have been serious, or was only informed of the said plot.

Besides FUNCINPEC, Hun Sen's CPP could also ally itself with the BLDP [Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party], which has been wracked by an internal conflict on party leadership between Information Minister Ieng Muli and Son Sann, the party's founder.

Hun Sen vowed to help resolve the BLDP's internal rifts, although he has been criticized for being behind the rift. A CPP senior staff recently said that Hun Sen is working hard to find a way out for the BLDP, which won 10 seats in 1993. One scenario has it that Son San will become an honorary leader to save face for everyone.

If Hun Sen can find a formula acceptable to all the BLDP's leaders, he will surely win their confidence and this could result in three-party alliance.

Such an alliance, many say, could prove formidable and effectively eliminate the chances of other existing, or new, parties from winning any seats in the National Assembly.

A long-time observer of Cambodia recently said the three parties, which are expected to win more seats in 1998, will set up a government with a single prime minister and compromise to save face for certain party leaders who may have to step down.

He added that while a high-profile opposition party, the Khmer Nation Party (KNP) of former Finance Minister Sam Rangsai, has the capability to compete in the election it is expected to win only a few seats since its supporters are limited to students, intellectuals and the international community and because it does not have a grassroots organization.

"It is only Sam Rangsai who is popular and well-known. Other KNP members are new faces to the public and to politics. But 1998 is still far and the party has a lot of time to strengthen its organization. This will require a lot of work," the same observer said.

The future of the KNP is still on the line as it has been declared illegal by the government because of its failure to submit the required documents needed to register a political party.

A party spokesman, however, denied this, saying they had already fulfilled all requirements. Since the government considers it illegal, the KNP is barred from organizing chapters and from conduct political activities.

The KNP was also criticised by the government for having scheduled its inauguration on national day (Nov 9) and for using the picture of the king on its flag.

Interior Minister Yu Hokkri said recently that any party can be established only after new election laws have been promulgated. He suggested that the KNP merge with an existing party so that it can legally conduct political activities.

#### **Cambodia: Ministers Inspect Illegally Felled Logs in Snuol District**

*BK1602104296 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian  
0500 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the commission to investigate and examine the problem of unprocessed and processed timber jointly led by His Excellency [H.E.] Tav Senghuo, minister of agriculture, forestry, wildlife, and fisheries, and H.E. Yu Hokkri, co-minister of interior, inspected newly felled logs in Snuol District, Kratie Province, on 13 February. The delegation held a working meeting at Snuol District's office building to find ways to seize the newly felled logs that unscrupulous merchants planned to export.

It was reported that the illegal felling of logs for export in Kratie Province was extensive. First, it had been committed by Vietnamese who were protected by armed groups; second, it had been perpetrated on a permanent basis by groups of people who carried the timbers away on ox-carts; and third, it had been carried out for domestic use.

The report added that 13,500 cubic meters of new logs had been illegally felled in Snuol District between last November and this February, and that the number of logs remaining after the 30 April 1995 ultimatum totalled over 120,000 cubic meters.

The delegation also inspected the newly felled logs in Snuol District, 15 km from the border with Vietnam.

H.E. Tav Senghuo said the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] led by Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh and Samdech Hun Sen, first and second prime ministers respectively, strived to take in line with



the policy of His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, all kinds of strict measures to stamp out anarchy in the destruction of timber. He also said that since the 30 April 1995 ultimatum, the RGC and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries have not authorized any log export at all. He said the prevention of log exports and the suppression of anarchy in the destructive felling of logs needs cooperation from all competent local authorities.

H.E. Tav Senghuo added that while equipment belonging to the unscrupulous businessmen was to be confiscated as state property, the newly felled logs would be auctioned to fill the state coffers.

### Indonesia

#### Indonesia: Hostage Takers, UNHCR Schedule Meeting

*BK1502163696 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 14 Feb 96 p 5*

[Report by Dirk Vlasblom: "Hostages in Irian Showing Signs of Life"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta — The Papuan rebels who are detaining an international team of natural scientists in Irian Jaya, Indonesia's easternmost province, have shown their first signs of life for three weeks. There was also news from the two Netherlands hostages through a different channel.

Yesterday the International Red Cross received a letter from Kelly Kwalik, a member of the Free Papua Movement [OPM]. He is in command of the small OPM army in Irian Jaya's central mountain range and is in charge of the kidnapping action. In the letter Kwalik asked for a meeting with members of the relief organization, at a time and place which the Red Cross prefers not to reveal. [passage omitted]

As a prior condition for the meeting, he wants the Indonesian Army to completely clear the area between Mapnduma, the town in the Lorentz park where the kidnapping took place on 8 January, and the suggested meeting place.

In Wamena, a city in the Baliem Valley where the Indonesian Army established its headquarters for the "Liberation Operation" and where the Netherlands, British, and German defense attaches are also bivouacking, a package arrived by Papuan couriers yesterday. It contained two letters from the Netherlands hostages Mark van der Wal (35) and Martha Klein (31). They wrote that they are still in good health, but are weakened by the long march of the past few weeks.

Three weeks ago the OPM group left the town of Mapnduma with its hostages, probably to find a new

hiding-place further away from the Indonesian military. Van der Wal and Klein urged the outside world to see to a speedy solution of the kidnapping. The dates of the letters indicate that they were written on 6 and 7 February. The package also contained letters from other hostages, addressed to their relatives. [passage omitted]

#### Indonesia: ICRC Team Makes Contact With Irian Jaya Kidnappers

*BK1502131996 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1006 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Jayapura, 12 Feb (ANTARA) — Until now, the security personnel in Wamena, Irian Jaya are still not able to make any contact with the GPK IRJA [Irian Jaya security disturbance movement]. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) team who has now become the mediator in the kidnapping refused to relate on the latest developments after its representative managed to contact Kelly Kwalik, leader of the GPK kidnappers.

Sources from ANTARA in Jayawijaya 1705 Military District in Wamena, on Thursday, admitted that one of its journalists met with a member of the ICRC team who went to meet the kidnappers. However, the person concerned has refused to relate on the latest developments.

Earlier, an ICRC team of four led by Hendry Fournier, ICRC chief representative in Jakarta, said only the ICRC Representative Office in Jakarta and Radio Australia will receive reports about their activities.

A team member refused to answer when asked about the results of the contact with Kelly Kwalik which was done via a courier, at Kelly's hiding place. When journalists tried to question the ICRC member, he told them to telephone the ICRC Representatives Office in Jakarta and speak to Sri R. Wahyu Endah, ICRC information assistant, who has received a complete report from Wamena.

Meanwhile, when contacted by ANTARA, Infantry Lieutenant Colonel Maulud Hidayat, head of the Information Service of the Trikora 8th Military Region Command, admitted that his party knew about the latest contact with the kidnappers only from the electronic and printed media.

#### Indonesia: European Nations Condemn Irian Jaya Kidnappers

*BK1502160696 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1135 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jayapura, 15 Feb (ANTARA) — The British, Dutch, and German Governments have



strongly condemned the GPK IRJA [Irian Jaya security disturbance movement] under the leadership of Kelly Kwalik for kidnapping their nationals. The nationals, who are members of the '95 Lorentz expedition, were kidnapped while carrying out research at Mapenduma village, Tiom Subdistrict, Jayawijaya District, Irian Jaya on 8 January 1996. The three governments have termed the kidnapping a criminal act.

Dr. N. Hasan Wirajuda, director of international organizations at the Foreign Affairs Department of the Republic of Indonesia, referred to the condemnation in response to questions from ANTARA journalists after delivering a lecture entitled: The United Nations and Indonesia: reflections and prospects as UN commemorates its 50th anniversary in 1996. The lecture was held on Thursday at the University of Cenderawasih (UNCEN) in Jayapura. It was attended by UNCEN academic staff and students and Irian Jaya-based private institutions of higher learning.

According to Hasan Wirajuda, Kelly Kwalik's kidnapping and hostage-taking of 26 WWF [World Wildlife Fund for Nature] researchers and civilians from Mapenduma village was a genuine act of crime and terrorism that has been calling for world attention. However, he said the kidnappers under Kelly Kwalik do not have the sympathy of outsiders.

Hasan Wirajuda stressed that the hostages whose fate is still unknown are innocent. In view of this, he is calling on Kelly Kwalik for their safe and immediate release.

He said the Directorate of International Organizations at the Foreign Affairs Department is giving its full support to ABRI [Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia] which is still using persuasion in efforts to release the hostages.

It is hoped that Kelly Kwalik will realize and decide to [word indistinct] while the ABRI continues to use the persuasive approach.

If this is not heeded, security personnel can easily resort to other action, Hasan Wirajuda said. [passage omitted on cooperation between UNCEN and Foreign Affairs Department]

#### **Indonesia: ABRI Chief on Cooperation With ICRC in Hostage Crisis**

*BK1602094696 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian  
0833 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta, 16 Feb (ANTARA) — General Feisal Tanjung, commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI], has said that the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] must coordinate efforts to secure the release of

hostages [held by the OPM or Free Papua Movement in Irian Jaya] with the security apparatus so that maximum results can be achieved.

"Although the ICRC is present there to help the security apparatus, everything must be under ABRI's control," Feisal told ANTARA after receiving reports [words indistinct] senior officers in Jakarta on Friday.

The Armed Forces commander said the assumption that the ICRC is "acting independently," created the impression that there is no more teamwork in the process. [passage omitted]

According to letters received through an ABRI courier, the condition of [the hostages], especially Martha Klein who has been pregnant for 18 weeks, is [gravely] worrisome.

The UNESCO researcher is reported to have contracted malaria because she has been moved from one place to another in the Irian Jaya jungle.

#### **Indonesia: Hungarian Foreign Minister Urges Trade Boost**

*BK1502121096 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian  
0904 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta, 15 Feb (ANTARA) — Hungarian businessmen are interested in setting up joint ventures with their trading partners from Indonesia in agriculture, energy, and transportation.

After paying a courtesy call on President Suharto at Bina Graha Presidential Palace in Jakarta today, Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs told journalists that Hungarians have experience in building roads in Malaysia and New Zealand.

Apart from wanting to expand economic and trade ties with Indonesia, he said Hungary can also be the gateway for exporting Indonesian products to Europe and the surrounding area. Kovacs, in the company of Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, said his side would like to transfer technology to Indonesia.

The trade balance between Indonesia and Hungary reached U.S.\$50 million in 1995, which was made up of Hungary's exports worth \$ [words indistinct] million, and imports worth \$27 million. Indonesia buys flour, chemical products, medicine, and raw materials for making medicine from Hungary.

Kovacs has expressed the hope that export and import activities between the two countries will be stepped up in the future.



## Laos

### Laos: Thai House Speaker Arrives for Visit, Meets President

*BK1602061196 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received, at the Hokham Presidential Palace in Vientiane this morning, a courtesy call from H.E. Bun-ua Prasetsuwan, speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand. The Thai House speaker and his delegation is currently on a friendly, official visit to the LPDR.

The talks between the guest and the host proceeded in a warm atmosphere of mutual understanding. H.E. President Nouhak Phoumsavan welcomed the visit to Laos of the high-level delegation of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand. The visit, he noted, takes place at the time when the relations and cooperation between Laos and Thailand are flourishing, especially following the exchanges of visits between high- and lower-level delegations between the two countries, including the visit by His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and her majesty the queen of the Kingdom of Thailand. H.E. President Nouhak Phoumsavan also raised for discussion major issues, such as the border problem, which should be urgently settled with a view to bringing about the promotion and expansion of the fraternal relations for the benefit of the two peoples of Laos and Thailand and preventing ill-intentioned elements from making use of this point to sabotage the friendship and good relations between the two nations. In conclusion, his excellency the president praised this visit by the high-level delegation of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand and held that it would contribute to further strengthening and improving even more fruitfully the relations of friendship and fraternal cooperation between the two countries in general and between the two legislative organizations in particular.

The head of the high-level delegation of the Thai House of Representatives introduced to his excellency the president the members of the Thai delegation, and informed him of the purpose of the delegation's visit. He said the visit is mainly aimed at further enhancing the traditional relations of friendship and fraternal cooperation between the two countries. He also wished for an increasing affection between the two peoples of Thailand and Laos. He expressed the hope that this visit will contribute to the continual development of the friendly relations between the two countries in general and between the two legislative bodies in particular. He

also thanked his excellency the president for the warm welcome accorded him and his delegation.

The high-level delegation of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand led by H.E. House Speaker Bun-ua Prasetsuwan arrived in Vientiane this morning for a three-day friendly, official visit to the LPDR. A welcoming ceremony was held in a formal manner at the National Assembly Hall in Vientiane. The ceremony was attended by H.E. Saman Vi-gnaket, chairman of the National Assembly, along with vice chairmen of the National Assembly, members of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, members of the National Assembly, and a number of cadres concerned. H.E. Somphan Kokilanon, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Laos, was also present.

### Lao Government Plans To Build Railroad to Chinese Border

*BK1602135896 Bangkok PHUCHATKAN in Thai 15 Feb 96 p 6*

[Report by Indochinese Information Center]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Boun-om Souththichak, director of the Office of Foreign Investment Management Committee of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, told PHUCHATKAN that ongoing negotiations between the Lao Government and Pacific Transport Company Limited of Thailand's Sahawiriya Group regarding the investment and construction of the railroad from Nong Khai Province to Tha Naleng ferry landing have been very fruitful. The Lao Government and the company are now in the process of drafting the "contract" for the concession to operate the railroad system.

The two major problems that the two sides encountered during the negotiations were: first, that the Lao Government wants to set the duration of the concession at 30 years with a 20-year extendible period, while the Pacific wants 50 years and a 30-year extendible period.

The second problem is the location of the railway station in Vientiane. The Lao Government wants the station to be at least 5 kilometers away from the capital. The investors deem that distance is too far from the heart of the city. Investment in the construction of the main station at such a location would not be commercially viable, because people would use the Tha Naleng substation instead.

Boun-om said: "The two sides will soon iron out these two obstacles. The contract's duration will be settled after the completion of the drafting of the contract. The new site for Vientiane's railway station is expected to be located behind That Louang Temple. The two sides



will work out a joint agreement on the operation of the train service before signing the contract."

The Lao Government will ask the Pacific Company to finish the construction of the first portion of the railroad from the middle of the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge to Tha Naleng ferry landing covering a distance of 5 kilometers within 8 months of the signing of the contract. The construction of the 21 kilometers of railroad from Tha Naleng to the center of Vientiane is expected to be completed in 1997.

The Lao Government plans to build railroad systems nationwide. The northern route will begin in Vientiane to Luang Prabang and Luang Namtha before connecting with the Xianghung-Kunming railway system in the southern province of Yunnan in China. Meanwhile, the local government of Yunnan Province is building a railway system from Kunming-Guangtong-Chousong-Enlu-Simao-Xianghung- and Mon La townships. From Mon La, the Chinese railroad will be linked to Laos' railroad system.

A source in the Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post, and Construction of Laos disclosed that the linkage of the Lao and Chinese railroad systems will be made under the cooperation scheme of the nations of the Mekong sub-region, namely China, Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. The six nations will have to work together to solve a few technical problems. For instance, China's railroad is 1.43 meters wide while the Pacific proposes Laos use the 1-meter wide (Single Light Rail) [previous three words published in English] type that is being used in Thailand.

According to Laos' national railway system plan, the southern route will run from Vientiane down to Pakse District of Champassak Province and join the Thai railroad in Ubon Ratchathani Province. From Attapue Province, the southern railroad will be linked to Vietnam's north-south railway system at Dong Hoi town. [passage omitted]

Phetsamon Vilaphan, permanent secretary of Laos' Ministry of Communications, Transport, Posts, and Construction, disclosed that the Lao Government had requested financial assistance from Australia and Japan to conduct a feasibility study for the construction of the railroad from Boten District in Luang Namtha Province to Oudomsai, Luang Prabang, and Vientiane. According to the study, which was conducted two years ago by the local government of Yunnan Province, the construction of a 570-kilometer railroad from the Chinese border to Vientiane would cost \$750 million.

#### **Lao Foreign Ministry Delegates Meet With Russian Counterparts**

*BK1502132196 Vientiane KPL in English  
0958 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, February 15 (KPL) — The delegations of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Laos and of Russia held a meeting here yesterday afternoon during the latter's cordial visit to Laos between February 14-16 at the invitation of the Lao Foreign Ministry.

The Lao delegation was led by Phongsavat Boupba, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Mr. Panov A.N., deputy minister of foreign affairs, who headed the Russian delegation.

The two sides shared the view that the relations and cooperation between the two countries have been gradually enhanced and have constantly grown in recent years, in particular since 1994, following the signing of an agreement on the basis of friendly relations. Both sides appreciated the importance of the mutual relations at present as well as in the future, especially of politics and economy. In 1994, a Lao-Russian economic, commercial, scientific, technical cooperation commission, which serves as an important mechanism for economic and commercial relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries, was also set up.

In 1994, the volume of goods exchanged between Laos and Russia reached US\$22.7 million, up by 44 percent.

The two sides also discussed cooperation plans between the two countries for 1995-96, particularly in investment and education, the relations between the two countries' Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and other issues of mutual interest.

#### **Lao Foreign Minister Receives Russian Foreign Delegation**

*BK1602095096 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] At the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Vientiane this morning, Somsavat Lengsavat, minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR), received a courtesy call from a Foreign Affairs Ministry delegation of the Russian Federation led by Panov Aleksandr (Nikolavich), deputy minister of foreign affairs. The Russian delegation is currently on a visit to Laos. The visit is taking place from 14 to 16 February. The talks between the guest and the host proceeded in a warm atmosphere.

On this occasion, the Russian delegation head briefed the Lao foreign affairs minister about his delegation's



activities during the visit to the LPDR. He specifically noted the outcome of his delegation's consultative meetings and the exchange of experiences with a delegation of the LPDR Foreign Affairs Ministry in the economic, trade, and investment fields, as well as in the fields of education and foreign relations. Somsavat Lengsavat expressed his welcome to the Russian delegation and highly praised its visit to the LPDR. He said the visit contributed to further promoting, expanding, and strengthening relations and cooperation between the two countries, as well as the two foreign affairs ministries of Laos and Russia.

On the same morning, Sompadit Volasan, minister of trade, also received the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry delegation.

### Philippines

#### Philippines: SRV Refugees Attempt To Block Repatriation

*BK1602052896 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hundreds of Vietnamese refusing to return to their homeland blocked an airport runway Wednesday [14 February] but were unable to stop a plane from repatriating 89 other asylum seekers. Soldiers tried to use water canons to disperse a crowd which rushed out of the refugee camp adjacent to the airport in Puerto Princesa in Palawan, west of Manila, minutes after the Air Vietnam plane arrived. Authorities led the 89 men, women, and children between two rows of soldiers in the airport departure area to the aircraft; some were crying. One middle-aged man about halfway up the stairs of the plane turned back and tried to escape.

#### Philippines: Readiness Expressed To Grant Residency to SRV Refugees

*BK1602015596 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] has a new program for Vietnamese refugees. According to Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon, the DFA is prepared to grant residency rights [preceding two words in English] to Vietnamese refugees who do not want to return to their country. Siazon explained that voluntary repatriation for asylum seekers is part of the government program.

#### Philippines: Government Abandons Forced Repatriation of SRV Refugees

*BK1602043096 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Department of Foreign Affairs said Thursday it is willing to grant residency rights to Vietnamese asylum seekers who do not wish to return to their homeland. Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon Jr. told reporters, and we quote, we would have to find a way of formalizing the stay of those who do not wish to leave, end of quote. He said the government would have to find a way of giving them residency status. Siazon confirmed that the government has adopted a policy of not forcibly repatriating the asylum seekers, many of whom have said they would rather die than return home.

On Tuesday, President Ramos agreed to end forced repatriation in response to pleas of Roman Catholic Church bishops and leaders. The Philippines, in an agreement with Vietnam and the United Nations high commissioner for refugees, had planned to evict all the asylum seekers no later than June. Siazon said church groups and other private organizations now will try to persuade the asylum seekers to return to Vietnam voluntarily. But if they really do not want to, they just have to find a legal way to allow them to stay, Siazon said. With the new arrangement Siazon said the government is now turning the rest of the refugees over to church and private groups. The camp, home to more than 2,000 asylum seekers of the former South Vietnam, is in Puerto Princesa City, 519 km southwest of Manila.

Several hundred camp residents reportedly fled earlier in anticipation of Wednesday's forced repatriation. Hundreds of other Vietnamese blocked the Puerto Princesa airport runway in sympathy with the 89 but were dispersed with water canons, shoved, and dragged by soldiers.

#### Philippines: Bank Robbery Believed Motive in Makati Bombing

*BK1502121796 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0945 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Makati Police has three witnesses and a sketch of the suspects in yesterday's bombing in Makati City. Following is a detailed report from Mao de la Cruz, live from Makati. Mao, come in:

[Begin live relay] [Cruz] Makati Police is expediting its investigation of yesterday's explosion at the Citibank Building in Legaspi Towers, Makati City. With me is Colonel Custodio, chief of Makati Police. Colonel, what is the status of the probe of yesterday's blast?



[Custodio] Our investigators continue to gather statements from witnesses to ascertain who the perpetrators in yesterday's explosion are.

[Cruz] So Colonel, where did the suspects position themselves and how many were there?

[Custodio] From our investigation, it appears that they were on the eleventh floor of Blanco Towers. They used a wooden ladder to reach the top of a concrete wall at Blanco Towers.

[Cruz] So Colonel, [word indistinct] Citibank is too far, some speculations came out that this is the work of terrorists and the target was Shell. What does your investigation really show?

[Custodio] As of now, we do not see the work of terrorists because if you think about it, if terrorists really wanted to destroy Shell, they would have fired at Shell only. Shell's building is huge. They could have hit the middle portion of the building. But it appears that they only fired at the side because it was in their line of fire.

[Cruz] So Colonel, based on your inquiry of the witnesses, does the Makati Police have cartographic sketches already?

[Custodio] We do not have cartographic sketches yet. But we have some testimonies from witnesses who can identify the suspects.

[Cruz] So Colonel, what time did the suspect carrying the black bag enter Blanco Towers?

[Custodio] Based on the testimony of a witness, he noticed a man carrying a bag around 0900. In fact, he also noticed a protruding crow bar. He thought that he was just one of the construction workers.

[Cruz] What about the priest's robe? Was it used by the suspects?

[Custodio] It appeared that it was used at the top of the building because one of the witnesses saw a man in white on top of Blanco Towers.

[Cruz] Okay, thank you Colonel Conrado Custodio, chief of Makati Police. The public is expecting results on the probe of the Makati City blast. This is Mao de la Cruz, from the Makati Police Station. [end live relay]

At the Philippine National Police [PNP], many theories emerged in relation to the Makati explosion. But the motive seems to point to an attempted robbery of one of the banks. Our reporter Maki Pulido has a report. Maki, come in:

[Begin live relay] [Pulido] Because of their failure to rob a bank, the perpetrators decided to bomb Citibank and the nearby Shell building. This was the explanation

given by Chief Superintendent Romeo Pena, PNP director for investigations.

Pena stressed that it is unlikely that the Alex Boncayao Brigade or international terrorists were the ones who hit Citibank. He said that there is no other motive for yesterday's incident but an unsuccessful bank robbery. Pena admitted that the police could be facing a new bank robbery syndicate now.

[Pena] Probably, the person they sent inside the bank to size up the situation came out and said that they cannot do it because there were too many people and too many armed guards. Possibly, they fired at Citibank because they were upset.

[Pulido] However, according to police intelligence, it was the Abu Sayyaf group who attempted to rob Citibank. Our source says that Abu Sayyaf needs funds and that is why the group tried to rob the bank. A lack of funds is the reason why Abubakar Janjalani, the terrorist group's leader, is now in Manila.

There are now 30 armed Abu Sayyaf members in Manila and some of them could be behind yesterday's explosions in Makati. This is Maki Pulido. [end live relay]

#### **Philippines: More on Police Investigation of Makati Bombing**

*BK1602053996 Manila MANILA BULLETIN  
in English 16 Feb 96*

[Report by Elena L. Aben — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Philippine National Police (PNP) Director Recaredo Sarmiento II stepped yesterday into the investigation of the grenade attacks on the Citibank Tower and Shell House building in Makati City as he led an inspection of the scene.

Four persons, including an engineer, were wounded in the noontime attack at Makati's business center last Wednesday.

Police officials believe it was a foiled attempt to rob one of the banks in the area.

Southern Police District Command (SPDC) Director Dominador Resos said they already have two witnesses, housemaids in one of the rooms at the Blanco Center, where police recovered the weapons left behind by the armed men.

PNP-National Capital Regional Command (NCRC) Director Job Mayo reiterated that they have ruled out the terrorist angle in the attacks.

Mayo said that based on the weapons and other things they have recovered, including bonnets or ski masks,



the incident was a foiled attempt to rob one or more of the banks in the area.

The suspects, armed with high-powered firearms, could have panicked upon seeing the responding lawmen, which included elements of the elite Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit so they decided to escape, leaving their weapons at the Blanco building, a block away from Shell House, according to Mayo.

At least four loud blasts were heard by witnesses during the incident. It was later learned that the suspects had fired six M-203 grenades based on the items recovered from Blanco Center.

Aside from the six empty shells of M-203 grenades, police also recovered two M-16 armalite rifles, an M-203 grenade launcher, several magazines loaded with M-16 bullets, several rifle grenades, a crowbar, bonnets or ski masks, and a priest's cassock.

#### **Philippines: Protest Filed Over 'Assault' on Embassy in Seoul**

*BK1602011296 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Philippine Government has filed a diplomatic protest with the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Seoul, South Korea in connection with an assault on the Philippine Embassy. Two hundred members of the Moonie cult assaulted the Philippine Embassy in Seoul to protest negative reports about the Moonies in the Philippine media. The Department of Foreign Affairs requested the deployment of additional security forces around the embassy premises to ensure the safety of embassy employees.

#### **Philippines: Illegal Entry Charges Filed Against Chinese 'Pirates'**

*BK1602055296 (Internet) The Journal Group WWW in English 16 Feb 96*

[Report by Bernadette E. Tamayo. This web page publishes material from four daily newspapers and a weekly magazine put out by the "The Philippine Journalists, Incorporated (PJI), also known as The Journal Group." The dailies are THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL, THE PHILIPPINE JOURNAL, THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL TONIGHT, and THE PEOPLE'S TALIBA. The weekly is the WOMEN'S JOURNAL]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Illegal entry charges were filed against 20 foreign "pirates." Charged before the Zambales Municipal Trial Court were Wu Yong, Li Yon Fu, Chen Fen, Su Cheng Zuu, Chun Yong Sok, Lui Peng, Li Xuan Xi, Wu Jin Chuan, Yu Bao, Chen Yuun Chuan, Lee Mu Tiao, Yu Ba, Wu Xian, Li Kuan,

Liu Shuu Bao, Li Mi Chan, Zhan Zhen Kun, Chen Gui, Zhong Ching, and Li Xi Dong.

Conviction carries a maximum penalty of four years in jail.

Justice Secretary Teofisto Guingona told reporters there is no evidence that they are fishermen but he refused to categorically say that they are "pirates" or "Chinese navy men."

The Navy reported that they found military uniforms in the vessel but no contraband and firearms were seized.

"At this stage, it's very hard to speculate. All I am saying is that the DOJ [Department of Justice] is looking into any and all angles," Guingona said.

Navy Chief Vice Admiral Pio Caranza, in his memorandum to Guingona, said the suspects' claim that they are smuggling cigars from Subic to the People's Republic of China was baseless.

"Their alleged (Filipino) contacts cannot be verified. Hence, there is no basis to accept their explanation for their presence within Philippine waters," Caranza said.

He added: "The vessels' structure (steel hulled), sophisticated communications and navigational equipment, six engines and high-speed (35 knots) cruising capability, fortified in-pilot house, codes for radio transmission, and spurious identification cards for some of her crew are characteristics uncommon to smugglers and pirates encountered by the Philippine Navy."

Guingona said he also ordered State Prosecutor Fitzgerald Lee to determine whether the suspects committed other crimes since the Navy recommended the filing of piracy and seajacking charges.

The maneuvers undertaken by the suspects to escape arrest, lack of appropriate ship identification markings, flags and cargo documents "suggest that the vessel was engaged in piracy and seajacking," Caranza explained.

#### **Philippines Foreign Minister on Chances for Regional 'Instability'**

*BK1602050396 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Philippine foreign minister, Domingo Siazon, said Asia's economic boom could usher in a period of instability, but alliances like the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, forum will help prevent conflicts. Siazon cited the Korean Peninsula, the Taiwan Straits, and the Sea of Japan as among potential sources of unrest.

Siazon told foreign and local journalists rapid growth generates sweeping economic and social change that



can be destabilizing in the short term. He said that interdependence can endanger unhealthy competition due to the friction caused by sudden and unaccustomed proximity. He added that invisible hand in the market cannot save everything; markets do not wage [word indistinct] and trade wars, governments do.

Siazon said regional alliances like APEC, which is to hold its fourth summit conference in the Philippines this year, could serve as a vehicle to resolve disputes. He said it was 99 percent certain the summit will be held on 25 November at Subic Free Port in former U.S. naval base northwest of Manila. Siazon said APEC members now produce more than half the total of global output and accounted for almost half of overall trade.

He said history had demonstrated that material progress did not guarantee peace. He said an era of dramatic transformation such as ours is also one of potential instability. He was referring to tensions between North Korea and South Korea, between China and Taiwan, and between Japan and South Korea. He said economic disputes between the United States and Japan and between China and other East Asian economies have reached worrisome levels. Other concerns to be addressed are attempts by industrial economies to limit export to developing nations for imposition of environmental, labor, and human rights dialogues on trade.

**Philippines: Muslim Rebels Occupy 5 Zamboanga del Sur Villages**

BK1602110996 *Quezon City MALAYA in English*  
10 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Al Jacinto]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zamboanga City — Five persons were killed when Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels occupied five coastal barangays [villages] of Lapuyan Town in Zamboanga del Sur last Thursday, the military reported Friday.

Lapuyan Mayor Cesar Sulong sought the help of Chief Supt. [Superintendent] Orville Gabuna, Western Mindanao PNP [Philippine National Police] director, to go after the rebels who had been collecting P [pesos] 5,000 monthly revolutionary taxes from the town officials.

Sulong added that the rebels were recruiting young men to join their ranks.

In Jolo, suspected Abu Sayyaf members bombed last Wednesday and Thursday the Star City Carnival at the Song Hong compound along Serrantes St. No one was reported killed but several were wounded.

Unused Malaysian fragmentation grenades were recovered by carnival workers who claimed that the bombings

occurred 7:30 PM on Wednesday and 5:45 PM Thursday.

Carnival owner Minda Unabia said before the incidents, she received several letters from the Abu Sayyaf asking for P100,000 monthly protection money.

Other business establishments in the area also reported receiving extortion notes allegedly from Abu Sayyaf.

However, reports later confirmed the letters came from syndicates capitalizing on the Abu Sayyaf.

**Philippines Military: MILF Not Involved in Alamada Town Attack**

BK1602084896 *Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English* 13 Feb 96 p 17

[Report by Stella A. Estremera]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Davao City — The military has ruled out the involvement of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in the Feb 5 attack in Alamada Town, North Cotabato.

Citing claims by local residents, Lt. Col. Ruperto Ambil, chief of the military's Southern Command, said Sunday the incident was in retaliation to the killing of a Christian militiaman.

At least 30 houses were razed during the attack.

Ambil said that during the negotiation for the turnover of the suspect in the militiaman's killing, the residents failed to reach an agreement, thus resulting in the burning of houses.

He stressed that the burning was instigated by both Christians and Muslims.

But Ambil said the contending groups have already started rehabilitating their barangay [village].

"At least, nag-uusap na sila [now they are talking]," he said.

"We already have people working towards the normalization of the area... the local government is helping them," he added.

Ambil, who was here during the arrival of Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Julius Chan, said the military's primary task is to rebuild the houses.

On Feb. 8, President Ramos declared Alamada as a calamity area. He authorized the release of P [pesos] 300,000 for the town's rehabilitation.



**Philippines Government Denies 'Secret Deal' With Muslim Rebels***BK1602103096 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 13 Feb 96 p 3*

[Report by Stella O. Gonzales]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of the government panel negotiating with Moro rebels yesterday denied reports of a secret agreement between the two sides and said the persistent reports "seem to be instigated by irresponsible quarters out to sabotage the peace process."

Ambassador Manuel Yan, who is also presidential adviser on the peace process, also cautioned government leaders from "impulsively responding" to the reports "as if they were real and ominous."

Yan was apparently referring to the warning of some oppositionists that President Ramos could be impeached if reports were true that the government has acceded to the demand of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) that the proposed autonomous region in Mindanao will be established without undergoing a plebiscite.

Yan said in a statement that talks between the government and the MNLF have always been "conducted on a high plane across the negotiating table without any backroom maneuvers or secret pacts."

"To insinuate that this open, consensual effort is merely a ploy to cover up for some clandestine agreement is an insult to the entire peace constituency that has placed its high hopes in the negotiations," Yan said.

The government panel has always been transparent in its dealings with the MNLF, he said. He pointed out that the panel had conducted comprehensive briefings for three Mindanao summits for peace and development and twice for the Mindanao bloc in the House of Representatives.

Another briefing and consultation has been scheduled for the middle of the month in Mindanao with local officials in key provinces and cities in attendance.

Yan assured that the remaining contentious issues in the peace talks with the MNLF "will be resolved in accord with our Constitution and laws not through some tenuous backroom deals."

Wire reports last week claimed that the government has already given in to demands of the MNLF on the composition of the autonomous region. Reports said the region will be composed of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Cotabato, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Basilan.

The region will be under an MNLF provisional government for three years without need of a referendum, the reports had claimed.

**Philippines: MNLF Denies 'Secret Deals' With Government***BK1602081796 Manila PNA in English 0005 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cotabato City, Feb. 15 (PNA) — A high ranking official of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) today denied having secret deals with the national government for the establishment of a provisional government in Mindanao involving seven provinces.

MNLF Secretary General Muslimen Sema, speaking over local radio station DXMY, said the MNLF will not enter into any other deals as it will strictly adhere to the provisions of the ongoing GRP [Government of the Republic of the Philippines]-MNLF peace talks.

"Paano magkakaroon ng self-rule ang MNLF sa seven provinces, yun ngang issue ng [How can MNLF obtain self-rule over the seven provinces, that issue on] autonomy still remains a contentious one," he said.

Sema added that even the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) would not allow itself to be a part of any secret deal. "We could not sell out our people or comrades in the fields."

Recently, published reports said that the MNLF allegedly entered into a deal with the national government to govern over seven provinces in Mindanao.

The seven provinces supposedly involved in the deal are Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Tawi-Tawi, and Sulu, the four-province component of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM); Lanao del Norte, Basilan, and Cotabato Province.

Ever since, the MNLF has been fighting to rule over 13 provinces and six cities in Mindanao as one of the Moro front's condition stipulated in the Tripoli Agreement.

The following provinces are Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Tawi-Tawi, and Sulu of the ARMM, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Sarangani, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, and Basilan; also the cities of Davao, Cotabato, Zamboanga, Marawi, Iligan, and General Santos.



**Philippines Editorial on Alleged 'Secret Deal' With MNLF**

*BK1602081496 Manila MANILA STANDARD  
in English 11 Feb 96 p 1B*

[Editorial: "Secret Agreement With the MNLF"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For all we know, the emerging rhubarb about a secret deal between the Philippine Government and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] concerning a crucial issue in their peace negotiations might not exist at all. But it is creating a furor which could unnecessarily stall the talks and even stoke old Christian-Muslim differences in the South.

This is the supposed agreement forged during the recent third round of negotiations in Jakarta to the creation of a provisional autonomous government in lieu of the existing Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao [ARMM] that would consist of seven provinces instead of the present four without benefit of a plebiscite.

The jurisdiction of an autonomous region in the South is the stickiest issue facing the peace negotiators. The MNLF insists that in accordance with the Tripoli Agreement, all the 13 provinces and their nine component cities in the third geographical region of the Philippines, meaning the entire island of Mindanao, Basilan Island, the Sulu and Tawi-Tawi island group and the island of Palawan, should comprise the autonomous region.

In accordance with its own interpretation of the Tripoli Agreement, the government insists that it had complied with the treaty when it held a plebiscite wherein only four provinces, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi opted to be part of the ARMM.

At the Jakarta talks late last year, the MNLF leaned backward by allowing that its proposed provisional government need not be Muslim-led, that its leadership could be determined by the majority of the electorate, but was adamant on its demand that it should be created without consulting the people concerned first. The geographical area is predominantly Christian.

From reports on the last Jakarta talks, the Philippine panel refused to agree to a provisional government without a plebiscite to determine the will of the people in the region on constitutional grounds.

Then, a few days ago, the Associated Press came out with a story that the two panels in Jakarta had secretly agreed to the creation of a seven-province (the present four plus Lanao del Norte, Cotabato and Basilan) without a plebiscite.

At first blush, the report seemed far-fetched, specially as the source was not named and was merely identified as a peace negotiator. But it could not be easily

dismissed because the AFP is a trusted news service; it immediately raised the hackles of political and Catholic church readers.

Among the first to react was Sen. Blas F. Ople, who warned that if the reports were true, President Ramos could be impeached for unconstitutionally "giving away Mindanao." On the other hand, Zamboanga del Sur Bishop Federico Escaler said the alleged secret agreement "will not bring peace but further trouble."

Both, the government, through Press Secretary Hector Villanueva and the MNLF, through the head of the MNLF peace secretariat in Manila, have denied the existence of any secret agreements.

Unfortunately, Secretary Villanueva has not been allowed to establish an unquestioned credibility as the spokesman of President Ramos. The president has allowed other members of his official family to speak for him, who at times embarrass the government. This has eroded Villanueva's stature, if not credibility.

On the other hand, the MNLF denial came only from the head of its Manila peace panel secretariat. Because of his low rank, he can easily be denied.

The developing furor over the supposed secret deal has at least done one good: The president and his peace panel have been put on notice that they cannot give any concessions in the peace negotiations without consulting the people in the contested region.

But President Ramos must nip the controversy in the bud before it can do much harm by making a categorical denial of the alleged secret pact. By keeping the people in the dark, he is courting trouble.

### Thailand

**Thailand: Columnist Praises Appointment of U.S. Ambassador Itoh**

*BK1602091896 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai  
16 Feb 96 p 6*

[Column by Phairat Phongphanit: "Welcome William H. Itoh"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been observed that the great differences between the people of the eastern and western hemispheres lay in their philosophies and ways of life, not in their mentality or competence.

It is rather difficult for westerners to understand and appreciate the Oriental ways — the ways in which the people work, manage their business, rest, and use their leisure time.



The growing economy of the eastern hemisphere in contrast with the economic slump in the West has triggered extensive argument as to whether or not the West should "learn" from the East. The person who proposed the idea for the West to learn from the experiences of the East is Lee Kwan Yew of Singapore.

I mention this matter in this column to make certain observations regarding the appointment of William H. Itoh as the new U.S. ambassador to Thailand. It has revealed at least two things — there are efforts to "understand" more about the Oriental ways, and it shows the significance attached to relations with Thailand.

Besides being of Japanese origin, the new U.S. ambassador has spent more than half of his career working with Asian affairs. He served as special assistant in the Department of State's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 1984 to 1986 [years as received], and country officer for Japan from 1978 to 1980.

His birth in Japan, previous positions that dealt with Asian affairs, and an education in humanity should make it easy for him to comprehend the Oriental ways. It should also be noted that William H. Itoh is quite a thorough and active person.

He graduated with honors from the National War College. Prior to his new appointment in Thailand, he served as executive secretary of the U.S. National Security Council.

It is clear that the U.S. Government attaches significance to the post of the U.S. ambassador to Thailand. The qualified candidate for this position must be well versed in various areas because he has to deal with cooperation, conflicts, and Thai-U.S. relations, which are relevant to other regional issues.

Welcome to Thailand. It will not be long before Ambassador William H. Itoh realizes that Thai ways are many times more complicated than ordinary Oriental ways!!

#### **Thai Article Discusses CIA Recruitment, 'Poor Public Image'**

*BK1602040496 Bangkok ASIA TIMES in English 15 Feb 96 p 6*

[Unattributed article under the "Off the Record" rubric: "CIA Chief Still in the Classroom"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] These days, United States intelligence professionals are wondering who will be working at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in a couple of years?

Experienced officers are leaving the agency because, as one of them put it: "I can't put up with this crap." At

the same time, young professionals are not in a hurry to join because of the poor public image the CIA has established for itself over the past two years.

Director of central intelligence John Deutch seems to have decided it would be better for his public image to separate himself and his inner circle from the great majority of professional intelligence officers — with disastrous results for the CIA

He did not lift a finger to help the agency during painful Senate hearings on the Aldrich Ames case. As a result, a former senior CIA official remarked: "The CIA proved its reputation as the worst, most disgusting and probably most useless part of the US government, which by chance has the most impeccable chief."

According to some sources, the director has taken decisive steps to remove any senior professional intelligence officer who dares to argue with him over his attitude toward the CIA in general or his views on specific intelligence issues.

One agency employee noted: "The guy just cannot stand any objections. He feels all of us are his students, and the agency is a branch of MIT [Deutch was formerly a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology]

Unfortunately for Deutch, it is unlikely at this point that many of MIT's real students will sign on at the agency.

#### **Thai Air Force Commander Dismisses Concerns About F-18 Cost**

*BK1602070396 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Feb 96 p 2*

[Report by Watsana Nanum]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Concerns about a cost overrun in the F/A-18 jet fighter purchase plan were dismissed by the Air Force commander-in-chief yesterday.

The Air Force's procurement outlay for the twin-engined Hornets would not exceed the allocated budget, said ACM [Air Chief Marshal] M.R. [Mom Ratchawong — royal title] Siriphong Thongyai.

People should disregard claims arising from fierce competition over the 18-billion baht plan to buy the squadron of American fighters.

"We should not pay any attention to this," he said. "We've stressed that the Air Force wants the F/A-18 fighters as it suits our needs."

Comparing the Hornet to a limousine, ACM Siriphong said the Air Force had made its choice and it was not interested in someone trying to sell a pick-up truck.



ACM Siriphong was responding to suggestions by Spindler & Associates, strategic communications consultants, that the deal would leave the Air Force with additional costs running into billions of baht.

An F/A-18 costs \$35 million while the F-16, already in service with the Air Force, costs \$26 million.

The consultants, believed to be working for Lockheed Martin, which makes the F-16, quoted Air Force sources as saying they opposed the F/A-18 plan.

The consultants said the estimated cost of the eight Hornets was \$578 million (14,565 million baht), which is over 4,500 million baht above the initial budget of 10,000 million baht.

Several countries which had bought Hornets had to invest more in new support systems, including a flight simulator, since the one purchased for F-16s was not compatible.

It noted that the estimated 14,565-million-baht price tag for the F/A-18s did not include sophisticated Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air missiles.

ACM Siriphong, insisting the Air Force would keep within its budget, said the first eight Hornets would cost 10,000 million baht and the second batch of eight 8,000 million.

**Thailand: 'Virtual Curfew' Imposed Along Cambodian Border**

*BK1602070696 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Feb 96 p 7*

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Aranyaprathet — The military yesterday imposed a virtual curfew on roads running parallel to the Cambodian border, saying the move was aimed at stopping car smuggling along the border.

The move came as fighting between rival factions inside Cambodia intensified.

In a related development, one person was seriously injured when mortar fire from Cambodia landed in Thailand in the afternoon.

Col Itsara Watcharapraphit, deputy commander of Burapha Task Force, yesterday tried to pacify local villagers over the move.

He said the travel ban was not a curfew, just a request from the military for people not to use the roads during the night so soldiers could do their duty.

The measure was necessary to deter an alarming increase in the smuggling of stolen cars from Thailand to Cambodia he said.

The 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. ban affects roads in Tambon Pa Rai, Tambon Tha Kham, and Tambon Khlong Namsai in the border district.

Colonel Wanchai Thongsukhum, the army commander in Aranyaprathet, said smugglers frequently drive stolen cars along these roads at night, protected by armed men in uniform from Cambodia who escort them across the border and provide fire cover if they meet Thai authorities.

He said the curfew would reduce the lucrative cross-border trade in stolen cars. Surveillance along the border also has been beefed up, with more frequent patrols.

The commander said the military had given Cambodian authorities seven days to return a stolen truck taken across the border on February 5 into an area controlled by Phnom Penh's 12th Army Division.

Thai border guards pursued the smugglers as far as the frontier where they ran into several Cambodian soldiers who promised to give back the vehicle, he said.

If the Cambodians do not keep their promise, Thailand will stop letting Cambodian soldiers seek treatment at the Aranyaprathet Hospital.

**Thailand: World Court 'Could Be Asked' To Rule on Border Wall**

*BK1602040396 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Feb 96 p A1*

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The World Court could be asked to rule on Malaysia's construction of a wall along the border with Satun province if there was no agreement in talks between Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, Foreign Minister Kasemsamoson Kasemsi said yesterday.

There was no valid reason for the wall he added.

It would not prevent drug trafficking or illegal trade along the border as claimed by Malaysian authorities.

Such a wall was not good because it showed the country building it did not want to be friendly with its neighbour.

"They are building it without reason," he said.

He compared the Malaysian wall to the Great Wall of China, which had not kept out the Mongol hordes, and the Berlin Wall, which had not stopped people escaping from the former East Germany.

If negotiations failed to yield results, Thailand may take the issue to the World Court after having the Arbitration Committee study the conflict, Kasemsamoson said.



"We would do so (taking the case to the World Court) if we were sure that we are correct," he said.

He remained optimistic that talks would be successful, although it was unlikely the matter would be raised during the Asia-Europe Meeting in Bangkok on March 1 and 2.

The military and local villagers have voiced concern the Malaysian wall could complicate the sea border and lead to Kuala Lumpur making a claim on the Thai island of Tarutao in Satun.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Suraphong Chaiyanam disagreed with a statement by government spokesman Somsak Pritsanananthakun that Malaysia had stopped construction of the wall.

He said while Malaysia had the right to build the wall, because it was on Malaysian soil, there should be a legitimate reason for it. Malaysia's claim that the wall would prevent illegal trade was unfounded.

Thailand therefore had the right to ask an arbitration panel to make an interpretation of Malaysia's action and then take the matter to the World Court, Suraphong added.

However, Navy chief Adm Prachet Siridet said he thought there would be no problem with the wall. It was not unusual for a country to try to protect its interests, he said.

#### **Thailand: Refugees To Assist With Investment in Vietnam**

*BK1602045096 Bangkok THE NATION in English  
16 Feb 96 p A6*

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vietnamese refugees living in the country will be employed to assist Thais planning to invest in Vietnam, Kopsak Chutikun, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Department, said yesterday.

Kopsak said the Vietnamese, many of them descendants of people who fled when the communists ousted the French, could play a constructive role by assisting owners of small to medium-size businesses interested in investing in Vietnam.

A Thai delegation raised the subject during a recent five-day official visit to Vietnam. Hanoi had no objection since both sides agreed that the refugees no longer constitute security threat, he added.

There are about 30,000 ethnic Vietnamese living in Thailand, of whom some 6,000 have been granted citizenship.

The rest are awaiting decisions on their applications and are confined to the northeastern part of the country.

Kopsak said there is no hidden agenda in making use of the Vietnamese and there is no plan to repatriate them.

He pointed out that more and more Vietnamese living abroad are returning to Vietnam to do business.

"Just about all of them have passed through or resided in Thailand during the process of relocating to a third country, and many speak and understand Thai," said Kopsak.

Vietnamese who were fathered by Thai soldiers during the Vietnam War can also contribute, he said, but he did not elaborate.

During the five-day visit, Kopsak said, the Foreign Ministry delegation met Thai businessmen in Vietnam who made several proposals.

They asked the government to assist them by establishing a centre to provide legal and other advice for those wishing to invest in the country.

They asked that the government clarify its policies toward Indochina and what effect they may have on their presence in the region, said Kopsak.

Delegation leader Gen Siri Thiwaphan, chairman of the advisers to Foreign Minister Kasemsamson Kasemsi, said Thailand ranks 13th in terms of investment in Vietnam.

#### **Thailand: Economic 'Giants' Urged To Seek Mekong Development Role**

*BK1602045596 Bangkok THE NATION in English  
16 Feb 96 p A2*

[Joint report by Surachai Chuphaka, Wichit Chaitrong, and Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chiang Rai — Global economic giants Japan, South Korea and Germany have expressed a strong interest in participating in an ambitious ASEAN initiative to develop the Mekong River sub-region, a meeting of 10 Asian economic ministers was told yesterday.

The seven-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations agreed at the organization's December summit to take a more active role in developing the Mekong basin.

South Korea, through the Manila-based Asian Development Bank, will host a conference next month to discuss the proposal. The Seoul conference is intended as an orientation meeting, where interested investors can gain first-hand information on prospective projects.



Germany surprised ASEAN by offering to host a similar conference in Frankfurt in May, according to Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan.

Kopsak Chutikun, the director general of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Affairs Department, said both South Korea and Germany had requested that Thailand brief businessmen on the proposed development. Amnuai has asked Communications Minister Wan Mohamatno Matha to attend the Seoul and Frankfurt meetings.

Japan, which was officially approached earlier this month at a meeting of 10 Asian foreign ministers, has also expressed interest in becoming involved. Tokyo is already one of the largest contributors to Mekong development.

A Japanese Embassy official said Japan had been involved in the area for many years, initially through the Mekong River Committee and more recently through its successor, the Mekong River Commission, which was formed last April.

A senior Japanese government official, Yasunobu Matoba, is the commission's first chief executive officer.

Amnuai told the economic ministers meeting the 15 European Union nations will be urged to participate in Mekong development projects during the upcoming Asia-Europe Meeting in Bangkok.

Meanwhile Malaysia, which was entrusted by the December ASEAN summit to study priority projects, is planning a briefing of senior ASEAN officials in either June or July to elaborate on the development scheme.

The results of the meeting will be forwarded to the annual meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers to be held in Jakarta in July.

At the December summit, ASEAN leaders and the heads of government of Burma, Cambodia and Laos agreed to cooperate in the development of the Mekong region, a move they hope will bring prosperity to Southeast Asia as a whole.

Singapore and Malaysia are keen to see a high-speed train linking Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos and southern China's Yunnan province.

Amnuai said that Thailand wants road and air links between all countries in mainland Southeast Asia, and a region-wide fibre-optic telecommunications network.

"We [Thailand] believe the development projects will help all the countries in the region, especially Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar [Burma], to develop their economic potential and integrate into the ASEAN dream of one Southeast Asia," said Amnuai.

He allayed concerns that the Mekong River Commission would lose significance in the face of greater international cooperation.

He said the commission, which is comprised of the four Mekong basin countries — Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam — will have to adjust to the changing times in order to meet the more demanding needs of the region.

Beijing has not reacted officially to the ASEAN initiative and Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Shi Guangsheng, who attended the meetings here, declined to comment yesterday.

A senior South Korean official said Seoul was very interested in Southeast Asia and especially in Indochina.

South Korean businessmen want to invest in the area, particularly in hydropower projects and road networks, but are not fully aware of the options open to them, he said.

#### **Thailand: Asia To Push For Liberalized Trade With EU at ASEM**

*BK1602050596 Bangkok THE NATION in English  
16 Feb 96 p A2*

[Report by Surachai Chuphaka, Wichit Chiatrong, and Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chiang Rai — Ten Asian economic ministers agreed in principle yesterday to liberalize trade and investment with the European Union, but did not agree on a timetable.

Malaysia in particular expressed strong doubts about the wisdom of setting specific dates, according to a conference source.

The ministers, however, agreed that regular meetings involving Asian economic ministers and their counterparts from the 15-member European Union should look into the elimination of all obstacles to free trade and investment between the two continents.

Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan, who chaired the meeting as host, confirmed that the ministers agreed to seek strengthened economic cooperation.

While Asia has endorsed trade and investment liberalization through the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, which has a non-discriminatory policy, the EU is moving towards a single market.

Amnuai said the Europeans should also open up to trade and investment. He suggested this should be through the adoption of a Most Favoured Nation (MFN) policy.



The Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry, Seri Rafidah Azis, interrupted Amnuai during his opening statement yesterday, a conference source said. She announced that Kuala Lumpur does not want a fixed timetable for free trade.

She said the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Bangkok on March 1 and 2 should deliberate a broad agenda. The leaders should not delve into specific issues such as timetables.

The ministers agreed not to set a timeframe, the source said. The meeting also listed specific tariff and non-tariff measures applied by the EU which are considered trade and investment barriers.

The Singaporean Minister of Trade and Industry, Yeo Cheow Tong, wanted European entrepreneurs investing in Singapore or Southeast Asia to have equal status with local companies, as the EU treats investors in Europe.

China's representative asked the ministers to convince the EU to support Beijing's membership in the World Trade Organization.

The Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry, Shumpei Tsukhara, proposed that Prime Minister Ryotaro Hashimoto brief EU leaders on the APEC liberalization process during ASEM.

Japan also wanted it made clear that Europe could not expect a free ride into APEC liberalization, even though the forum operated on a most favoured nation basis, said the source.

Tsukhara proposed a meeting of Asian and European Union economic ministers in early 1997.

However, because the EU has no economic ministers, the question arose: should Japan invite the European Commission, which is responsible for international trade?

Tsukhara said Japan proposed to invite the EU's equivalent ministers, the source said.

Kopsak Chutikun, director general of the Economic Affairs Department of the Foreign Ministry, said the European Commission is responsible only for international trade matters. The EU has ministers responsible for trade-related matters such as transport, communications, finance and industry.

The ministers agreed to set up an Asia-Europe Business Forum to promote private sector links. Thailand offered to host the first meeting early next year.

## Vietnam

**SRV: National Assembly Chairman on 1996 Tasks**  
*BK1402135296 Ho Chi Minh City CONG AN THANH PHO HO CHI MINH (Special Edition) in Vietnamese 19 Feb 96 p 6*

[Interview with Nong Duc Manh, National Assembly chairman by correspondent Ha Cam Phong in the "Spring 1996" Tet special edition; place, date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Comrade chairman, could you please tell us the basic measures the National Assembly will undertake to help implement the resolution on socioeconomic tasks in 1996?

[Nong Duc Manh] At the eighth session (October 1995) the Ninth National Assembly passed the resolution on the tasks for 1996. The resolution was: "To continue the renovation undertaking for the industrialization and modernization of the country, to increase our national reserves, and to strive for more rapid and stable growth. To solve urgent social issues, and to create a balance between economic growth and cultural and social development. Lastly, to further improve the people's livelihood, consolidate national defense and security, and expand diplomatic relations."

To implement these objectives and directions successfully, the National Assembly resolution also describes the necessary measures and tasks to be taken in all sectors of the economy, in culture, education, social and public health, science, technology, environmental protection, national defense and security, on ethnic issues, external relations, and in the management of the state mechanism. The National Assembly has requested the government, concerned state agencies, and all sectors and echelons to implement plans, and to review them in their respective capacities and duties.

The aims of the National Assembly's law making function at present are to institutionalize all party lines and policies. This is in order to accelerate industrialization and modernization, and to develop a multisectorial and market-driven economy under state management along the socialism path. The laws are also aimed at developing culture and education, social equality, human rights, and freedom and democracy for the people. It is also against the peaceful evolution, and aims to build up national defense and security, and to improve the efficiency of state management in social order and safety. At the same time, we also need to focus on the efforts to reform the national administration and the judiciary, thus contributing to refining and perfecting the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, making it pure, steadfast, effective, and efficient. The National Assembly has issued a resolution that sets the law making program from now



until the end of the term. During this period, 15 drafts of the law (official), 17 (reserved) drafts, and 27 draft ordinances will be made. During its term as well as in 1996, the National Assembly will strive for strong progress in law making, in quality and quantity. Efforts will be made for the early completion of laws and codes that are essential for the various facets of socio-economic life. The National Assembly will also strive to renovate the process of preparing drafts, and rectify the lack of uniformity, inconsistencies, and lack of coordination among relevant organs. More attention will be paid to the way views are solicited from people on drafts law to ensure practicality, to avoid formalism and waste, and to mobilize the consciousness of the masses in making important laws and codes.

[Correspondent] Comrade chairman, could you please identify the role and duties of each individual delegate in their respective locality in implementing the National Assembly resolution on 1996 socioeconomic development tasks?

[Nong Duc Manh] Our state is a state of the people, by the people, and for the people. All the activities of the state, therefore, should be aimed at serving the people as their prime goal. The state should reflect correctly the will and aspirations of the people, and ensure that all state power truly belong to the people. The people have handed over state powers to the National Assembly through a general elections and by direct and secret balloting. The National Assembly, therefore, should represent the legitimate interests of the people.

To realize this role, National Assembly delegates should be as close to the people as blood is to flesh, and should reflect the people's desires and aspirations at the assembly. In addition to other important duties, delegates should summarize all voter petitions and submit them to the National Assembly meetings, and pay proper attention and supervision to the handling of people's complaints and denunciations in their respective localities. The most important factor helping National Assembly delegates work efficiently is the deep belief that they are authorized by the people to participate in making important decisions for the country. So, their activities should always reflect the people's will, aspirations, and interests. In their daily life, they should strive to be worthy of their noble title of people's representative, and be wholehearted in serving the people. All the activities of National Assembly delegates should be subject to close scrutiny by the people. Our people have a tradition of altruism and generosity, but they will not tolerate the delegates they have elected if they are aloof, and if they fail to fulfill their responsibility handed over by the people. Furthermore, National Assembly delegates should also possess a flair for reform and be diligent. They

should constantly strive to improve their knowledge in all areas and heighten their morality and behavior. They should always be close and attached to the people and at the same contribute to the successful implementation of the National Assembly resolution on 1996 tasks.

On the new year, I wish that the CONG AN THANH PHO HO CHI MINH will develop its strength, always search for ways to improve the paper in design and content, to be worthy of the readers' trust and be a propaganda agency for the party and the public security sector, as well as a bosom friend of the laboring people. Also, on the occasion of the new Spring, I wish the CONG AN THANH PHO HO CHI MINH many more successes.

[Correspondent] Thank you sincerely, comrade National Assembly chairman.

#### **SRV: Vo Van Kiet Urges Development in Central Highlands**

*BK1502152096 Hanoi VNA in English  
1227 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.15 — Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has urged relevant government agencies and the local authorities and people in the central highlands to strive for annual economic growth of 10-11 percent, higher than the national average, in the 1996-2000 period.

Mr Kiet was in Pleiku on Feb.12-14 to discuss with officials of the provinces of Gia Lai, Kon Tum and Dac Lac a master plan on socio-economic development in the region in 1996 and also for the 1996-2000 five-year plan. He also inspected preparations for party congresses at the provincial level due to be organised soon in all regional provinces.

At a meeting with leading local officials, Vo Van Kiet said that the central highlands should be developed along a commodity economy with priority given to agriculture and forestry in combination with industrial development (particularly the processing industry), services and tourism.

Regarding a strategy for regional development up to the year 2000 and beyond, the meeting noted that the plateaus must be turned into a region which is strong in economic growth, stable in social development, and firm in security and defence, making it an economic and military strategic stronghold of the country.

To create a good economic model and boost cash crop farming in the highland region for more export products, coffee and rubber production should be top priorities. In 1995, the region had 120,000 ha of coffee and harvested



a total output of 170,000 tons. The region exports made up 85 percent of the national coffee export turnover.

Additionally, the proportion of industrial output and services rose from 37 percent in 1990 to 43 percent last year while its 1995 per capita food share reached 300 kilos.

However, many problems and challenges still remain ahead, especially the lower annual per capital income which was about 60-70 percent of the national average. The ratio of the poor among the population in the region to remained high. There also was a shortage of scientific and technical personnel, especially those from the ethnic minorities.

#### **SRV: Vu Khoan, PRC Minister Hold Talks at Rail Link Opening**

*BK1502150796 Hanoi VNA in English  
1427 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.15 — Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan exchanged views with his Chinese counterpart, Tang Jiaxuan, in the Vietnamese province of Lang Son yesterday on the occasion of the opening of the Sino-Vietnamese rail link.

Reviewing the relations between the two countries over recent years, particularly after the China visit by Vietnamese party General Secretary Do Muoi, the two deputy foreign ministers expressed pleasure at the new positive development of the bilateral friendship with the reopening of the international rail link as a highlight. They also compared notes on measures to implement the agreements reached by the two countries' leaders and to speed up negotiations on border issue.

#### **SRV: Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Interviewed on Relations**

*BK1502160896 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English  
1000 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[Station correspondent's interview with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As reported earlier, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Panov has spent two days this week in Vietnam talking with Vietnamese leaders and officials of Vietnamese Foreign Ministry to discuss regional and international issues of common concern. Following is an excerpt from an interview by our radio correspondent with the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister.

[Begin Alexander Panov recording in Russian fading into English translation] This is a short visit but it is very successful. I had useful talks with my Vietnamese colleagues. Both sides held that friendship and cooper-

ation between Vietnam and Russia have taken positive steps. More than ever before, both Vietnam and Russia realized the necessity to consolidate their traditional ties. Experiences drawn from the comprehensive cooperation will help bilateral relations become more dynamic while the two countries are undergoing reform for mutual benefit. [end recording]

Regarding Russian foreign policy, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Panov said:

[Begin Alexander Panov recording in Russian fading into English translation] The first phase of Russian socioeconomic and political reform has ended. Russia now plans to move along the reform program with more caution to ensure the country and people's interests. To get this done, Russia plans to befriend and cooperate with all nations worldwide with a focus on strengthening and developing of traditional ties with Southeast Asian countries including Vietnam. Another important policy is to improve its ties with countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and all other states of the former USSR. This is of special significance to boost and stabilize socioeconomic and political situation. I came to Vietnam at the time when the Vietnamese people are preparing to celebrate their traditional Tet. I would like to wish the Vietnamese people a happy new year and greater successes in the reform process. [end recording]

#### **SRV: Review of Returnees Program Held With Germany**

*BK1502152296 Hanoi VNA in English  
1216 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 15 — A meeting was held here on Feb. 13 by the Vietnamese Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs, the Vietnam Commerce and Industry Bank and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation to review the two-year implementation of a programme of financial aid for returnees from Germany.

In 1991, some 50,000 Vietnamese guest workers returned home from Germany ahead of schedule due to negative changes in Eastern Europe, causing many difficulties not only for themselves and their families but also for their whole communities. In face of this situation, the governments of Vietnam and Germany signed an agreement on financial aid for returnees which came into effect as of mid-1993. Under the agreement, the German side would loan DM [Deutschemark] 13 million to Vietnam, and the Vietnamese side would contribute DM 9 million.

Apart from personnel training, 997 projects have borrowed VND 110,045 million to create jobs for 14,000



people including more than 1,000 returnees from Germany.

In general, the projects have been conducted effectively, generating jobs, products and incomes, with some outstanding business models.

At the meeting, the two sides expressed their pleasure at the fine results of the programme which have also contributed to enhancing the cooperative ties between Vietnam and Germany.

**SRV: National Carrier Leases 2 Boeing Aircraft**

*BK1502151196 Hanoi VNA in English  
1227 GMT 15 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.15 — The national flag carrier, Vietnam Airlines, has received two more Boeing 767-300s under a recently signed 'dry lease' agreement.

The handover, which took place in Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat International Airport, will bring the total number of chartered 767 aircraft to six.

Vietnam Airlines has chartered a number of modern aircraft such as Airbus 320, Boeing 767-200, Boeing 767-300 and bought smaller ATR-72 planes.

The airlines currently has a fleet of 27 aircraft, including obsolete aircraft, which enables it to fulfill 90-95 percent of its transport capacity.

Vietnam Airlines is set to put 70 more flights in service for local and overseas Vietnamese on the occasion of the traditional lunar new year festival on domestic routes and international routes linking Vietnam with destinations in Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

**SRV Grass-Roots Groups Urged To Prepare for Party Congress**

*962E0008A Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG  
in Vietnamese 13 Dec 95 pp 1, 5*

[Article by C.T.]

[FBIS Translated Text] After more than two months of carrying on tests in preparation for the primary-level party organization congress, on 12 December the Ho Chi Minh City CPV Committee held a conference to review the experiences in organizing the congress and providing timely help to the party committee echelons so they can do a better job in implementing primary-level congress activities from now until the end of January 1996. Nguyen Ngoc An, a member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal CPV Committee, presided at the meeting.

To date, 110 party bases in the city have been selected by the city, wards, districts, and higher-echelon party committees to serve as test points, and they have completed preparations for the congress. This includes 12 subward units, seven villages, 47 enterprises, 16 professional units, 21 agencies, and seven armed forces units.

A report by the Congress Guidance Committee, which was read at the conference by Pham Van Hung, the head of the Organization Department of the Municipal CPV Committee, mentioned the recent efforts made by the primary-level party committee echelons to ensure that the congress achieves good results. Concerning this, it should be mentioned that the party bases are actively and tensely carrying out the work steps, organizing discussions on the documents of higher-level party organizations, making thorough preparations for drafting the reports of the bases, and performing the functions and tasks and adhering firmly to the work practices and requirements of each primary-level unit in discussing and formulating resolutions. The majority of the bases have elected an adequate number of party committee members and delegates to attend higher-echelon congresses.

The report by the Guidance Committee also mentioned the weaknesses and limitations in organizing for the congress. Some of the problems that were stressed included: Many of the ideas contributed by delegates focused on the situation and problems, but they failed to propose policies and measures to overcome the problems or to present positive solutions. As for introducing documents, the time for discussing the congress documents and resolutions was limited. Many of the subward and village party organizations had not thoroughly reviewed the leadership role of the party bases with respect to state management in the locality. A number of bases, particularly those at the enterprises, had not yet studied the strengths and weaknesses, problems, and shortcomings of their unit or summarized the main problems in party leadership at the enterprises. A number of party bases wrote very general reports and failed to mention specific guidelines and tasks or measures for carrying out the tasks. They tended to simply list the achievements and failed to analyze the causes and the lessons of party work at the bases. In electing party committee members and delegates to attend higher-level congresses, a number of places did not implement the work regulations correctly and they failed to make thorough preparations. As a result, the elections failed to satisfy the requirements (not enough party committee members and delegates were elected). Some places even violated the election principles.

Based on this, the Guidance Committee has required the party committee echelons (wards, districts, and party



committees above the primary level) to immediately organize conferences to review the experiences so that they can guide the party bases in preparing for the congress. As for preparing the contents of the congress, the Guidance Committee is requiring them to continue organizing things for people to contribute ideas concerning the proceedings of the (eighth) national congress and, through this, improve the understanding of party members concerning the lines and viewpoints of the party, and to continue examining and supplementing the draft contents of the report on the situation and tasks of the primary-level party organizations and party chapters in accord with reality at the bases and the requirements of the new situation. They must also make good preparations concerning the election of party committee members and delegates to attend higher-level congresses pursuant to the regulations and guidelines and maintain the standards and composition. In the present situation, particular attention must be given to political and ethical quality and to capabilities and prestige.

At the conference, Nguyen Ngoc An reminded the party committee echelons that attention must be given to doing a better job in contributing ideas to the proceedings of higher-echelon congresses, that real measures must be put forth, that the requirements of the political tasks of each base must be satisfied, and that the regulations on electing party committee members and delegates to attend higher-level congresses must be implemented fully.

The period for organizing the primary-level congress runs from now until the end of January 1996. Thus, the Guidance Committee is requiring the party committee echelons to make urgent preparations and immediately organize the primary-level congress in order to continue organizing for the higher-level party congresses and the Municipal Party Organization Congress (which is tentatively scheduled for April 1996) in accord with the plan of the Municipal CPV Committee.



### Australia

#### AUSTRALIA: Sir William Deane Assumes Governor General Office

*BK1602062996 Melbourne Radio Australia  
in English 0500 GMT 16 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's new governor general, Sir William Deane, has been sworn in to office in a ceremony in the nation's capital, Canberra. Sir William takes over as the queen's representative in Australia from Bill Hayden, who ended his seven-year term at Government House earlier today. Sir William had been a member of the High Court of Australia until he resigned to take over as governor general.

Prime Minister Paul Keating and Opposition Leader John Howard both attended the ceremony at the Parliament House along with other dignitaries. Both will resume their campaigns later today for the federal election on 2 March.

#### AUSTRALIA: Keating Outlines Labor Party Policy for Campaign

*BK1502144196 Melbourne Radio Australia  
in English 0630 GMT 14 Feb 96*

[From the "International Report" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Australian Labor Party has officially launched its campaign for the national elections on 2 March. The dominant theme of the prime minister, Paul Keating's, speech at the launch was like the campaign itself, about leadership. Mr. Keating told an enthusiastic audience of party dignitaries and supporters in Melbourne that over the past three years the Labor government had provided leadership both at home and overseas. Our National Affairs Correspondent Stewart Heather reports Mr. Keating's speech was strong on his interest in Australia's role in the Asia-Pacific.

[Begin recording] [Heather] Paul Keating is fond of talking about the big picture or what former American President George Bush called the vision thing. But whereas George Bush suffered from a lack of it, Paul Keating may suffer politically from having too much. In his major presentation of this election campaign in which the Labor Party is hoping to be returned to government for a historic sixth successive time since 1983, Mr. Keating dealt with the necessities of such a speech recapping why Australians had last elected him and the Labor Party, and according to Mr. Keating, how the government had delivered on its promises.

[Keating] We face the people of Australia confident that we have earned their trust once more. I think we can say these things, that we strenuously pursued the

goals we set and that sometimes we exceeded our own expectations. That we have been willing to lead, both at home and abroad, and that we have led with success.

[Heather] And then there was the big picture, the labor party campaign slogan is its leadership and with this word emblazoned boldly behind him in large letters, Mr. Keating frequently returned to that theme in his speech. He argued that Labor has leadership and vision but the coalition opposition under John Howard does not.

[Keating] Never, I believe, has there been an opposition so weak on policy and direction. They ask us to believe that he has a vision for Australia but after 20 years in politics I think a fair question can be put: Can any Australian say what it is? The fact is, while Labor has a vision for Australia in the 21st century, John Howard's vision extends no further than the 2nd of March 1996. [Applause] And while we have been repositioning Australia for the future, John Howard has been flat out repositioning himself to escape his past.

[Heather] Mr. Keating was more like the scathing parliamentary performer the Canberra press gallery knows so well when he diverted to mock the idea of the opposition front bench as potential ministers. But the most substantial passion of a largely impassionate speech was reserved for Australia's future in the Asia-Pacific.

[Keating] What is happening now in East Asia is without precedent in world history. East Asia has 2.5 billion people. The consistently high rates of economic growth coupled with higher education is producing new and rising levels of wealth and opportunity that knows no parallel in history and Australia is right in the middle of it. But we will only succeed in the region around us if we truly want to be there. It is the greatest challenge we have ever faced as a nation. By the year 2000 we should be able to say that this predominantly British and European country has learned to live securely in peace and mutual prosperity among our Asian and Pacific neighbors. The truth is, we either grasp the opportunity now or fail. The pace and momentum must not be lost.

[Heather] The prime minister also spoke of leadership at home and released a plan for realizing a national referendum on the issue of an Australian republic. He proposes a plebiscite on the question of should an Australian be head of state, leading to an all-party parliamentary group to prepare a referendum on a republic. Mr. Keating also spoke of another area he considers Labor has leadership accelerating young Australians more into the information age, with a \$300 million commitment to more computers in schools and updating teachers to the information revolution. In the prime minister's most important speech of this election



campaign and the one which more than any other marks his future, Paul Keating mixed his big picture with those necessary details of jobs created, workers and social welfare protected. But in less than three weeks the voters will let him know if they too share Mr. Keating's vision. This after all is only small things, the close-to-home things which will rule the day. [end recording]

### New Zealand

#### NEW ZEALAND Article Evaluates Reaction to French Tests

BK1002091496 Christchurch THE PRESS in English  
3 Feb 96

[Article by Peter Luke: "The N-Cloud's Silver Lining"  
— received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For some the Government response to French nuclear testing represented political opportunism from a party whose anti-nuclear credentials were far from solid. Others will choose to see the nuclear testing issue as a foretaste of MMP [mixed member proportional electoral system], when foreign policy decisions can no longer be the absolute prerogative of a government.

Either way, there is little doubt that however odious was President Jacques Chirac's decision to resume testing the Government was given a powerful political opportunity. To a considerable extent it grasped it.

Seldom has an issue so galvanised the New Zealand public. The last was arguably the 1981 Springbok [South African rugby team] tour. Yet then the issue was divisive, not inclusive. Also the Government was headed by Prime Minister Robert Muldoon, whose political style relied on confrontation, not consultation.

Mr Chirac's decision to break the 1992 testing moratorium prompted a formal statement to Parliament by Prime Minister Jim Bolger in June. That statement, in addition to condemning the actions of a "colonial" power, announced a military freeze with France.

The freeze itself was largely symbolic. New Zealand has few defence ties with France aside from occasional ship visits. More significantly, Mr Bolger either ruled out or was decidedly cool about other protest actions. These included recalling our Ambassador from France and emulating the Third Labour government by sending a frigate to Mururoa and lawyers to the World Court.

Within three months, however, all these options had been exercised. Chris Beeby, the Paris Ambassador, was recalled for consultations after the first nuclear test in September. The unarmed navy research Tui was already patrolling off the test site, while soon after Attorney-

General Paul East was pleading New Zealand's case before the World Court.

Perhaps this apparent triple change of mind was a cunning plan dreamt up by Beehive [Executive Wing of Parliament] strategists to ensure Mr Bolger had fresh ammunition when the tests actually began.

It is more likely that the Government had underestimated the consensus of passion against French testing, and France itself, in the community. In Parliament that passion was reflected by the calls from Labour, the Alliance, and New Zealand First for a more active response. Increasingly these calls became more strident and more radical. They included the unceremonious dispatch of the French Ambassador to Paris and of France itself from the region.

National's dilemma arose from the fact that it was the Government. As such it had to balance public and political calls for tough immediate action with the reality that New Zealand did have to maintain a working relationship with France. This latter concern was continually driven home by the diplomats at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, who were derided by opposition parties for their over-cautious advice. In retrospect much of that advice — including their pessimistic assessment of New Zealand's chances in the World Court — was borne out.

In particular the Government, in spite of Mr Bolger's initial anti-colonial outburst, was anxious to carefully separate the environmental and moral issue of nuclear weaponry from the political sovereignty issue. France seemed ready to quietly ride out the international storm over its testing. Yet when New Zealand MPs on a visit to Papeete showed interest in the colonial issue the French Embassy immediately warned them not to interfere in French sovereignty.

The Government did largely succeed in resolving this dilemma. That success resulted in an escalation in the New Zealand response while at the same time quarantining the dispute to the nuclear issue. Certainly, if Mr Bolger were to judge his policies by the air time he received on CNN, they were a roaring success.

Part of that success lay in the process of consultation with opposition parties which preceded the Government's triple backdowns. These talks achieved several political purposes. They portrayed Mr Bolger as a leader prepared, in the MMP environment, to open foreign policy to consultation. They allowed Mr Bolger to be "persuaded" to take the popular measures he had initially ruled out. And while Mr Bolger was always going to take the credit for success himself, he muted the scope for Opposition complaints in the event of failure.



Domestically both Greenpeace and opposition parties did not stint in their calls for yet tougher action. As the Tui cruised off Mururoa, for example, it was under strict instructions to avoid contact with protest vessels intending to violate French waters. That isolation led to bizarre claims that the Tui was somehow assisting the French.

Nor did the Government challenge France's right to seize Greenpeace vessels — although it did express concern over allegations of brutality during the stormings.

With Mr Chirac's decision this week China is left as the sole member of the five-nation nuclear club to continue testing. Mr Bolger, clearly anxious to cement in his anti-nuclear stance, used Mr Chirac's announcement to press for the elimination of nuclear weapons themselves.

In doing so he made it clear that while the defence sanction taken against France might soon be lifted, New Zealand remained at odds with Mr Chirac's defence policy. This is because of Mr Chirac's clear defence of the nuclear deterrent and description of the nuclear bomb as "a weapon that serves peace".

Mr Bolger's call this week for the elimination of nuclear weapons resurrected the trans-Tasman sparring that characterised the entire testing period. Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating has set up the Canberra Commission of eminent persons to examine how nuclear weapons could be abolished. No New Zealander is on this commission. However, Mr Bolger tartly observed that Mr Keating's rhetoric might carry more weight if Australia were to stop exporting uranium.

Mr Bolger, in the shorter term, has made it clear that New Zealand will carefully monitor French actions on three fronts.

Mr Chirac's claim to have led the way in urging a zero (no test) threshold for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty will be put to the test later this year. His promise to sign the protocols to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty will have to be made good.

Finally, Mr Bolger will expect France to promptly decommission its test sites and allow unrestricted access to the investigating team from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

However unwelcome were the tests, they have done the Government a political favour. Since its initial opposition in the 1980s to Labour anti-nuclear policies, National had never quite shaken off the reputation that it was less than wholehearted on this issue.

Admittedly French tests in the South Pacific were always an easier issue to handle than the divisive ship ban in the 1980s. Given also the public passion against the Mururoa tests it could be argued that the Government had little choice but to lift its response last year.

Yet the Government, in striking a balance between diplomatic caution and a public desire for action and in its consultative approach, appears to have handled the issue well. At the very least it has ensured there will be little mileage on the nuclear issue for the opposition parties in this year's election.



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